Okujou Fuukei

Bliss & Biblo Eros

ISBN 978-4-576-07140-4

By: Fujiyama Hyouta

Credits

Scanner: Kurokagami
Translator: Sandyroo
Cleaner: Kurokagami
Typesetter: Kinky
QCers: Sandyroo
Justsonya
Proofreader: Kurokagami

http://bliss.diamond-virgin.net http://www.hackthemainstream.com

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屋上風景

contents

I knew I just had to have one
I asked my parents, but I should've known they wouldn't just get me one that easily
So I started saving money from my part-time job, and finally had enough to buy this little camera phone.

屋上風景
Okujou Fuukei - Rooftop Scenery
1

Click

Andou and I were in the same class last year.

Still, it's not like we were especially close back then. We were just classmates, nothing more.

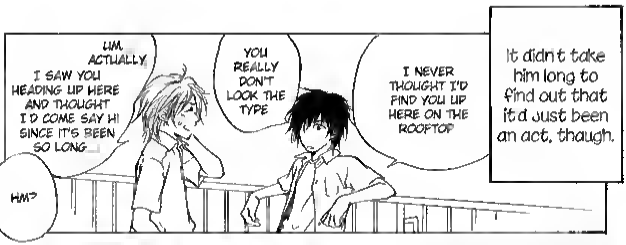
Andou was a low-key kind of guy, and didn't really stand out from the crowd.

But for some reason, his face left an impression on me.

I wasn't really aware of it at the time, but
Thinking back, my eyes were always following him
In our second year, we ended up in different classes
Just when the unsettled feeling of him vanishing from my field of vision started turning into real loneliness.
I spotted him by chance one lunchtime
HUH?
AH!
WHAT IS IT, MINAGUCHI?
OH... NO, IT'S NOTHING.
s!de

I started hoping for another "chance" meeting...
SO ANDOU'S IN CLASS 5...
Which is how I found out that if the weather was good, he usually went up to the rooftop every Tuesday during lunchtime

MINAGUCHI...?
Acting like it was just coincidence, I went up there and started talking to him


UM. ACTUALLY, I SAW YOU HEADING UP HERE AND THOUGHT I'D COME SAY HI SINCE IT'S BEEN SO LONG
HM?
YOU REALLY DON'T LOOK THE TYPE
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU UP HERE ON THE ROOFTOP
It didn't take him long to find out that it'd just been an act, though.

I was well aware that my words were kind of weird and could even be mistaken for some kind of love confession.

NO. NOT AT ALL

But Andou took it in stride and I ended up being able to talk to him freely up here.

Andou told me he came to the rooftop to sleep on Tuesdays before his 5th period PE class.
His friends usually went to the locker rooms ahead of time to mess around and have fun, but Andou himself rarely joined them
DOES IT HAVE A CAMERA?
YEAH
I ASKED MY PARENTS FOR ONE BUT THEY SAID I DIDN'T NEED IT
SO I PAID FOR A NEW MODEL BY MYSELF
HMM...
you must be loaded.
AFTER GOING THROUGH ALL THAT EFFORT WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU WANT TO TAKE PICTURES OF SO BADLY?
YOU OF COURSE!

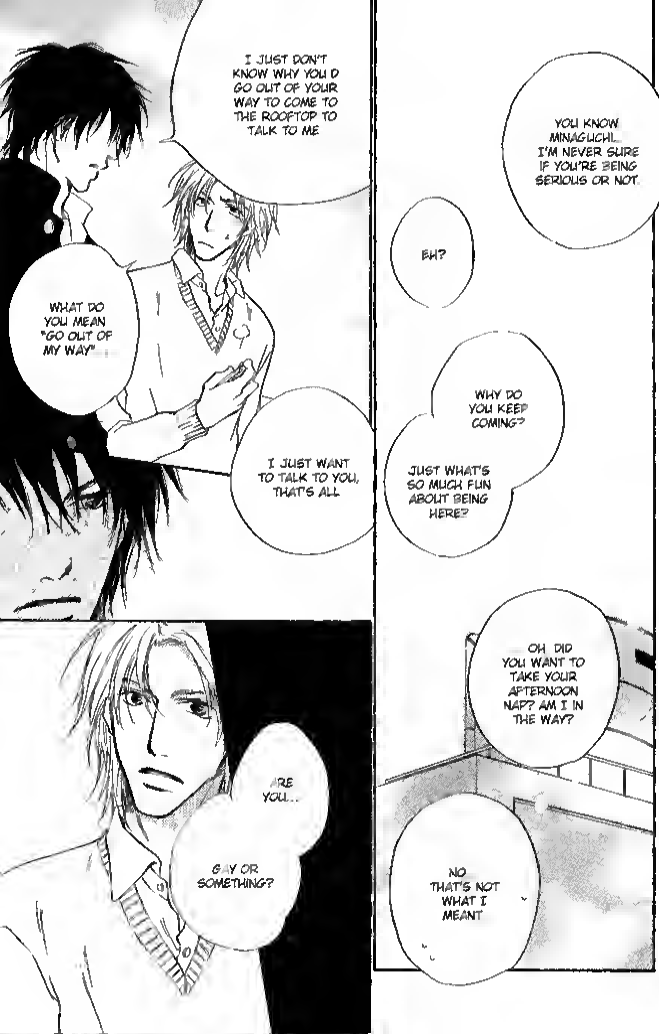
USE IT FOR SOMETHING MORE WORTH-WHILE NEXT TIME.
Che
Cl.CK
Save cancelled
snatch
AH.
WELL, I'M OFF
I HAVE TO GO BEFORE THE FIRST BELL

Getting pictures of Andou was originally what I was after.

By the following Tuesday Andou started letting me take them without comment.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO TAKE A PICTURE IS PRESS THE SHUTTER.
SHUTTER? WHERE?
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO FLIP IT OPEN.
LOOK, YOU CAN SEE IT ON THE DISPLAY HERE.
AH, THIS ONE?
OVER THERE ON THE SIDE
I GET IT LEFT AND RIGHT ARE REVERSED ON LCD SCREENS, RIGHT?
HUH? THE PICTURE'S THE WRONG WAY... AH.
YUP
click

...DID YOU JUST SAVE THAT?
I DID.
WHAT DO YOU WANT A PICTURE LIKE THAT FOR?
DO YOU EVEN HAVE TO ASK? I'M GOING TO ENJOY LOOKING AT IT ALL DAY LONG. ♡
♪
Delete it right now!
Eh!? But I finally got a shot of both of us...
You do realize I could just snap this phone in half, don't you?
Or better yet, show me how to get rid of it!
delete
hmph.


I JUST DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'D GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO COME TO THE ROOFTOP TO TALK TO ME
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "GO OUT OF MY WAY"
I JUST WANT TO TALK TO YOU, THAT'S ALL
YOU KNOW MINAGUCHI, I'M NEVER SURE IF YOU'RE BEING SERIOUS OR NOT
EH?
WHY DO YOU KEEP COMING?
JUST WHAT'S SO MUCH FUN ABOUT BEING HERE?
OH, DID YOU WANT TO TAKE YOUR AFTERNOON NAP? AM I IN THE WAY?
NO THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT
...RE YOU...
G...Y OR SOMETHING?

OH RIGHT... NOW I THINK ABOUT IT, MY ACTIONS MUST BE KIND OF SUSPICIOUS...
I NEVER EVEN THOUGHT TWICE ABOUT IT, BUT NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
I MEAN, I MUST SEEM LIKE A STALKER OR SOMETHING, RIGHT...?
AH...! IF YOU WEREN'T AWARE OF IT THEN IT'S FINE!
SORRY! I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT!
GAY...?
ANYWAY
YOU'RE NOT IN THE WAY OR ANYTHING THAT WASN'T WHAT I MEANT AT ALL
CAN IT SEND PICTURES TO MY CELL?
THAT PHONE.

DO YOU SEND TEXT MESSAGES WITH IT?
YOU HAVE A CELL PHONE, TOO?
SOME-TIMES
SHOW ME
I THINK IT SHOULD WORK
HERE
No camera though.
WANT ME TO TRY SENDING YOU ONE?
OKAY, IT'S SENDING
WHICH PICTURE DO YOU WANT?
It's my Andou collection.
AH
beep!
...I DON'T CARE WHICH ONE
IT ACTUALLY SHOWED UP ON MINE TOO
IT ARRIVED!
AWESOME...

BUT MY MODEL'S A LOT OLDER, SO THE PICTURE QUALITY ISN'T AS GOOD...
IT LOOKS MUCH BETTER ON YOURS
HEY,
SHOW ME YOUR PHONE ONE MORE...

ANDOU,
IT LOOKS LIKE... I MIGHT REALLY BE GAY AFTER ALL...

blush
thwack
SLAM
AH,
AND OU!
Backhand hit
OWW...

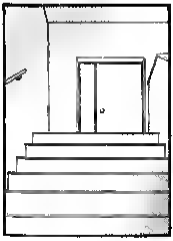
There was no way he'd be up there, but I still climbed the steps up to the rooftop door and took a deep breath.
I almost went to his classroom, but turned back at the last minute
The place that Andou hit became quite a sizeable bruise
And on the Tuesday after, the rain came lashing down.

HEY...
NO ONE LIKES A STALKER, DO THEY?
MM...
OH? MINAGUCHI, YOU'RE BACK.
DON'T YOU ALWAYS GO TO THE ROOFTOP ON TUESDAYS?
rattle
"OUTING CANCELLED DUE TO BAD WEATHER?"
WELL, I'M NOT SURPRISED YOU TURNED ROUND WHAT WITH ALL THE RAIN OUTSIDE
. . . . . .
ふぁ
WHY D'YOU ASK?
DON'T TELL US THAT TUESDAY IS YOUR STALKING DAY?
We should have known, Minaguchi!
BUT WHO KNOWS THERE MIGHT BE GIRLS WHO'RE UNEXPECTEDLY HAPPY TO HAVE ONE!
Where did that come from?
THEY'RE ANNOYING AS HELL!
WELL, OF COURSE NOT!
SFX: HAHAHA
はっはっはっ

The desire within me
I wonder why I never noticed
Wanting to capture his image in these hands of mine...
then getting lonely when I stopped being able to see him.
Watching Andou every day,
But, since a real flesh and blood version of him exists...
One that I can really touch, then...
AH!
ANDOU
MAN, THE SECOND I BECAME CONSCIOUS OF IT, I RAN OUT OF CONTROL.
BUT IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN ANDOU LOOK LIKE THAT. IT JUST MADE ME SO HAPPY

EVEN ON MAXIMUM ZOOM, THIS IS AS GOOD AS IT GETS HUM. ?
HM.
HM?
BUT
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH A SHOT LIKE THIS ANYWAY?

YOUR REGULAR TUESDAY HABIT AGAIN?
I THOUGHT YOU GAVE UP ON STALKING
clatter
ROOFTOP
WHOA, MINAGUCHI! WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A HURRY?



He noticed me

If he really hated me, he would've pretended not to see me, right?

Did he notice me watching him ?

This feeling must be love, right?

Okuyou Fuukei / END

枠外空間

Outside the Boundary

YOU MUST HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF PHOTOS ALREADY
DON'T YOU EVER GET TIRED OF TAKING THEM?
HOW MANY PICTURES DO YOU HAVE TO TAKE BEFORE YOU'RE SATISFIED?
And they're all of me
AH
proud
BUT I REALLY WANT ONE OF YOU SMILING!
sniffle
HERE LOOK ALL PICTURES OF YOU, ANDOU!
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE BEING ALOOF OR JUST GROUCHY, BUT THEY'RE ALL LIKE THIS!
You hardly ever look at the camera, either.
.....
WHAT'S THIS "ANDOU"?
IT'S MY ANDOU FOLDER
You moron.
I'M NOT A...
A...
A...

HUH? ARE YOU GOING ALREADY?
ACHOO!
NOW LOOK HERE YOU REALLY THINK I LIKE HAVING MY PICTURE TAKEN ALL THE TIME?
COME ON, JUST ONE'S ENOUGH
JUST GIVE ME A SMILE LIKE THIS.
I'M ALREADY LETTING YOU TAKE THEM WITHOUT COMPLAINING. BUT DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK
BUT YOU'RE SO CUTE WHEN YOU SMILE.
mumble
IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME LOOKING GROUCHY, THEN JUST GO AHEAD AND DELETE THAT WHOLE FOLDER
SLAM

I really like him.

And I even kissed him once...

(and got hit in return)

When the weather's nice, Andou often comes up to the rooftop on Tuesday during lunchtime.

CHE. I'LL JUST HAVE TO SET MY HOPES ON NEXT WEEK.

Achio!

I really don't know why, but

Andou never once complained about me coming up here to see him.

I wonder if that means I can get my hopes up a little.

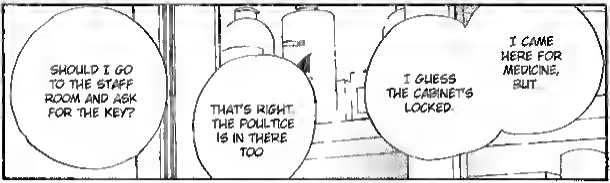
MM... WELL...
THERE'S THIS GUY WHO'S KINDA LIKE AN OVERGROWN PUPPY...
SO... WHEN I'M UP THERE, I JUST TALK WITH HIM, THAT'S ALL
PUPPY?
Nice shot!
NO MATTER HOW SUNNY IT IS, WE'RE ALREADY WELL INTO NOVEMBER
NAH... I DON'T REALLY SLEEP UP THERE
THEN WHAT DO YOU DO?

ACHOO!

GO TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE AND GET SOME COLD MEDICINE PLEASE
You're interrupting the lesson
sniff
sniff
MINAGUCHI-KUN
YES MA'AM.

UGH... I CAN'T SEEM TO STOP SNEEZING
wobble
I'M STARTING TO FEEL REALLY COLD TOO
I WONDER IF I'M GETTING A FEVER.
Damn. I hope not.
wobble
IN ANY CASE, JUST SIT TIGHT FOR A WHILE
I'LL TELL THE TEACHER THAT THE NURSE HAS GONE OUT.
SO THE NURSE ISN'T IN. HUH...
"Gone out until 1:30pm."
No way
!
HUH?
ANDOU!?

OH, I... AH...
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
Achoo!!
A-HA... I thought so.
NAH I WAS PLAYING BASKETBALL,
AND WHEN THE BALL WENT OVER THE LINE, THE GUY CHASING AFTER IT RAN STRAIGHT INTO ME
LOOKS PAINFUL...
WHAT'S WRONG...?
WHOA... DID YOU HIT SOMETHING?


SHOULD I GO TO THE STAFF ROOM AND ASK FOR THE KEY?
THAT'S RIGHT. THE POULTICE IS IN THERE TOO
I GUESS THE CABINET'S LOCKED.
I CAME HERE FOR MEDICINE, BUT...

YOU CAN PUT A WET TOWEL ON IT
OH, THIS CUPBOARD'S OPEN!
D... you ever listen to what...ther people say?
BUT YOU SHOULD PUT SOMETHING COOL ON IT SOON...
A bruise like that.
glance
glance
DON'T BOTHER YOU AREN'T FEELING WELL EITHER, RIGHT?

splash
tremble
Ha...
Achoo, achoo!
Achoo!!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO DO IT!
DON'T GET THAT COLD WATER ON YOU!
I'LL DO IT MYSELF SO JUST GO OVER THERE AND SLEEP
Your nose is running
I'M FINE, JUST FINE
I'LL SLEEP AFTER I WRING THIS OUT
HERE
wobble

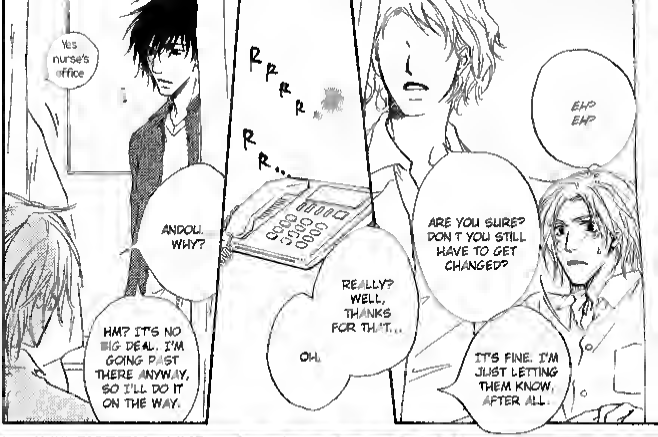
MINAGUCHI. DID YOU ALREADY FEEL A COLD COMING ON THIS MORNING?
EH?
IF YOU HADN'T COME TO THE ROOFTOP,
IT WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN THIS BAD RIGHT?
HAHA. YOU MAY BE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
BUT IT'S MY ONE AND ONLY CHANCE TO SEE YOU EVERY WEEK, Y'KNOW?
I WOULDN'T WANT TO MISS IT.
I...
WON'T BE GOING UP THERE ANYMORE STARTING NEXT WEEK.
IT'S TOO COLD
EH?
OBVIOUSLY

OH...
Could this be...
RIGHT...
I'M SORRY, ANDOU...
A hint for me to stop coming to see him?
IF YOU SAY YOU COME UP THERE ONLY TO SEE ME...
AND THEN GET SICK, IT MAKES ME FEEL GUILTY...
slide
OH, MY
I guess it is
After all, having someone like me hanging around him must be a real pain...
YOU HAVEN'T MEASURED YOUR TEMPERATURE YET, HAVE YOU?
NO
THEN PUT THIS UNDER YOUR ARM.
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THAT GUY FIRST
HE'S GOT A COLD, AND PROBABLY A FEVER, TOO
WHAT HAPPENED ...?
OH, THAT'S A HORRIBLE BRUISE YOU'VE GOT THERE...

I WAS PLAYING BASKETBALL IN PE.
A GUY RAN INTO ME, AND HIS ELBOW DID THIS...
slide
AND YOU!? WHAT'S YOUR STORY?
IT'S SAD TO ADMIT IT, BUT MY REACTION JUST NOW WAS PATHETIC.
Aaaaa
peek
YOU GO BACK TO MEASURING YOUR TEMPERATURE!!
Hm
looks okay to me
IS THAT REALLY THE ONLY PLACE THAT HURTS?
LET ME CHECK YOUR BACK TOO. JUST TO MAKE SURE. CAN YOU JUST LIFT UP YOUR SHIRT FOR ME?
perk
SURE...

* About 101.6 degrees farenheit

38.6°
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'D BETTER GET HOME EARLY
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT BACK TO YOUR CLASSROOM TO FETCH YOUR BAG?
I CAN LET THE TEACHER KNOW FOR YOU, BUT—
But I feel fine
EH?
AH... DO YOU WANT ME TO GO?
I COULD PASS THE MESSAGE ON TO THE GUYS IN YOUR CLASS, IF YOU WANT

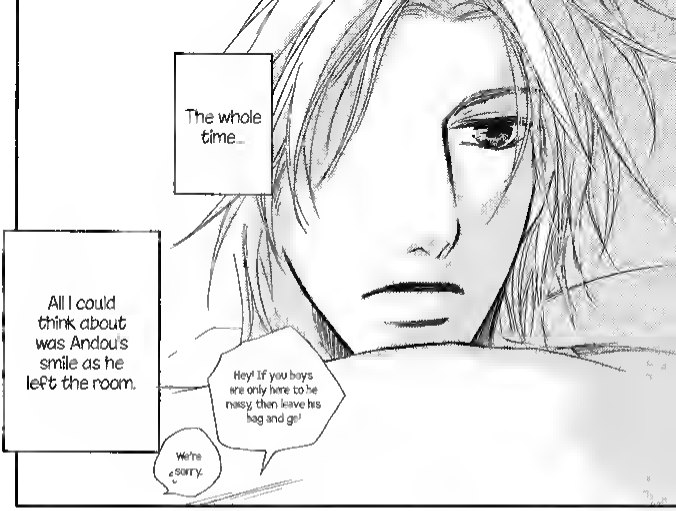

Yes nurse's office
ANDOU, WHY?
HM? IT'S NO BIG DEAL. I'M GOING PAST THERE ANYWAY, SO I'LL DO IT ON THE WAY.
R R R R R...
OH.
REALLY? WELL, THANKS FOR THAT...
EHP EHP
ARE YOU SURE? DON'T YOU STILL HAVE TO GET CHANGED?
IT'S FINE. I'M JUST LETTING THEM KNOW, AFTER ALL.

FLOP
COME ON
STOP TRYING TO SIT UP AND JUST GO TO SLEEP.
I'LL JUST GET ONE OF YOUR CLASSMATES TO BRING YOUR BAG FOR YOU.
BUT ISN'T IT A PAIN?
You want to get rid of me, don't you?
I'LL FEEL BAD...
I JUST TOLD YOU THAT IT'S ON THE WAY

Right?
Do you really have a fever?
We thought you were just making it up to skip class!
It's your own fault for going to the rooftop during flu season
I got teased an awful lot, but...

During the break, my friends brought me my bag from the classroom

Andou kept his promise and passed the message on to the guys in my class.


The whole time...
All I could think about was Andou's smile as he left the room.
Hey! If you boys are only here to be nosy, then leave his bag and go!
We're sorry.

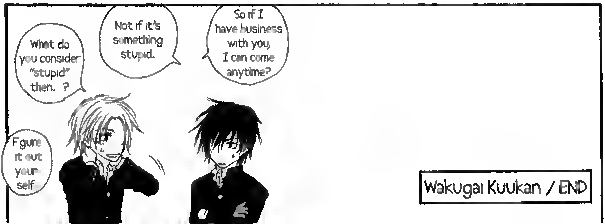
Can I really get my hopes up ?

WHAT ARE YOU LURKING ABOUT IN FRONT OF MY CLASSROOM FOR, MINAGUCHI?
HE'S GONE
OH?
I WONDER IF ANDOU'S IN
panic
panic
Er, I mean, waiting all week till next Tuesday would've been pretty bad of me in the first place...
You said you weren't going to the rooftop anymore.
Wah, I'm sorry!!
I just wanted to say thanks for the other day.
panic
HUH?
AND WHY ARE YOU SO NERVOUS ABOUT SHOWING UP AT MY CLASS, ANYWAY?
WHAT ARE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR?
EH ? YOU MEAN IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO JUST COME TALK TO YOU NORMALLY?

I knew then that it was impossible for me not to get my hopes up

But the smile he directed straight at me was a hundred times more vivid than any photo

I don't think I'll ever be able to give up the photographs, which I can take out and look at whenever I like.


What do you consider "stupid" then. ?
Not if it's something stupid.
So if I have business with you I can come anytime?
Figure it out yourself.

Wakugai Kuukan / END

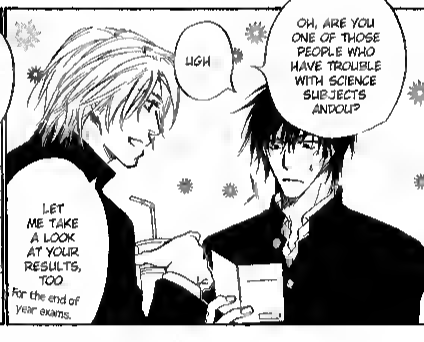
Words can't describe how happy I am right now

告白媒体

The Medium of Confession

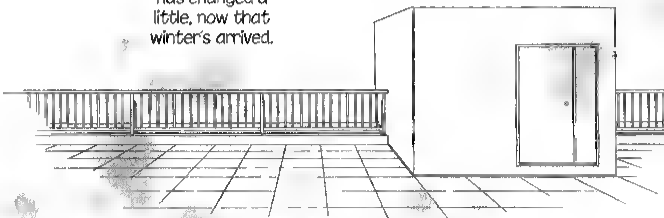
I TOTALLY SUCK AT ENGLISH, THOUGH
HM? OH, I GUESS...
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT... YOU'RE ACTUALLY PRETTY SMART, AREN'T YOU MINAGUCHI.
I'm kind of in shock.
YEAH, BUT YOU ACED THE SCIENCES

EH? NO FAIR! I LET YOU SEE MINE!
WOW, LOOK AT THE TIME. WE SHOULD REALLY GET GOING!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO JUST GOT THEM OUT AND SHOWED THEM TO ME!

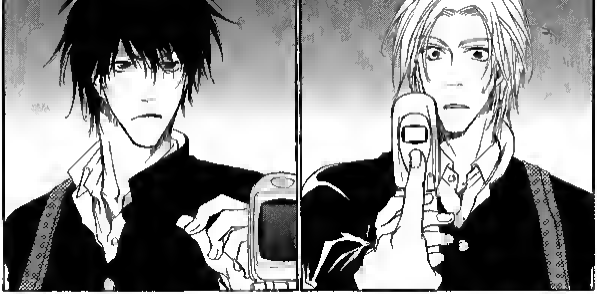

OH, ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TROUBLE WITH SCIENCE SUBJECTS ANDOU?
UGH
LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR RESULTS, TOO
For the end of year exams.

Up until recently, I went up to the rooftop once a week to see Andou. This single point of contact..

Has changed a little, now that winter's arrived.



WELL, CATCH YOU LATER!
It's still on an infrequent basis,
But we've started spending time together like this on our way home from school, chatting about trivial things.
clatter
CLICK
OH, ONE MORE THING, ANDOU!
HM?

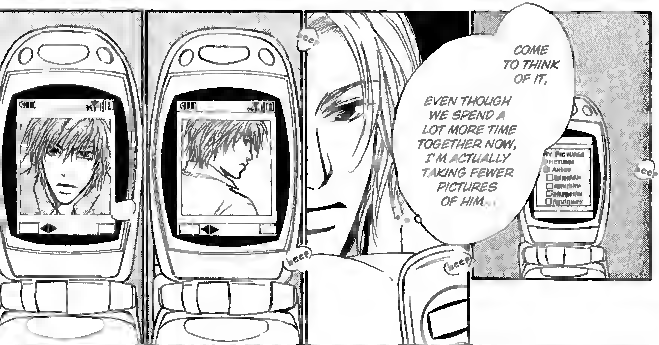


MORON! HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU THINK I'D FALL FOR THAT OLD TRICK?
Ah, it's all dark.
NO WAY! YOU SAW THROUGH MY CUNNING PLOY!?
LOTTO

LATER!

He finally started showing me smiles like that as well

For me, these are truly days of bliss.



It's the image of the real live Andou standing in front of me that keeps going around in my head.

That fuels my imagination.

Don't get greedy...
Don't get greedy

I'm already
indescribably
happy with things
as they are

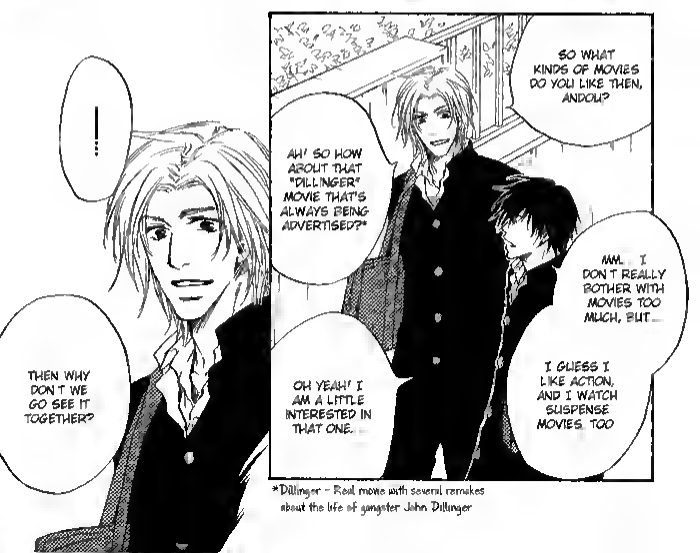
I know this only
complicates things.
I know that, but...

HMM. WELL, GIRLS TEND TO LIKE ROMANCE FLICKS DON'T THEY?
THAT'S BECAUSE I NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D ACTUALLY SAY YES!
HE ASKED THIS GIRL FROM HIS PART-TIME JOB OUT,
BUT HE DIDN'T LOOK INTO ANY OF HER LIKES OR DISLIKES BEFOREHAND
BUT SHE'S INTO CULT SHOWS AND STUFF TOO, SO...

YEAH. BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'D BE BETTER TO AT LEAST NARROW DOWN THE CHOICES A LITTLE BEFOREHAND?
I TOLD YOU, IT'D BE A LOT FASTER IF YOU JUST ASKED HER WHAT SHE WANTS TO SEE!
Man. I've had it with you! Quit arguing about every single little detail!
Tokyo Rumble

THEN YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW
THE MOVIES?
THE OTHER DAY, THE GUYS IN MY CLASS BROUGHT THIS MAGAZINE IN,
WELL, I DON'T GO OFTEN... JUST WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING ON WORTH WATCHING.
AND IT HAD THIS NEW MOVIE IN IT THAT SOUNDED REALLY FUN

HUH? YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
WELL IT DOESN'T REALLY STRIKE ME AS SOMETHING I'D WANT TO SEE...
Though it might be unintentionally funny
OH, RIGHT
HE UNCOVERS A SECRET ORGANIZATION'S EVIL PLOT TO DESTROY THE WORLD, AND FOILS THEIR PLANS AT THE LAST MINUTE IT'S A THRILLING TALE OF HEROISM AND TRIUMPH AGAINST THE ODDS!
MONETARY VALUE IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT IN THIS WORLD, SO TOGETHER WITH THE FRIENDS THAT HE MAKES WHILE CREATING THE GREATEST FINANCING NETWORK IMAGINABLE,
IT'S THE STORY OF A BANK CLERK WHO GETS TORN FROM HIS DREARY LIFE AND CATAPULTED INTO A STRANGE NEW WORLD
...AND THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL FUN...?


!
THEN WHY DON'T WE GO SEE IT TOGETHER?
SO WHAT KINDS OF MOVIES DO YOU LIKE THEN, ANDOU?
AH! SO HOW ABOUT THAT "DILLINGER" MOVIE THAT'S ALWAYS BEING ADVERTISED?*
MM... I DON'T REALLY BOTHER WITH MOVIES TOO MUCH, BUT...
I GUESS I LIKE ACTION, AND I WATCH SUSPENSE MOVIES TOO
OH YEAH! I AM A LITTLE INTERESTED IN THAT ONE...

*Dillinger - Real movie with several remakes about the life of gangster John Dillinger

"TILLINGER," YOU MEAN?
OR THAT CATAPULTED INTO A STRANGE WORLD ONE?
WHICHEVER ONE YOU WANT TO SEE!
OR SHOULD WE JUST GO SEE BOTH?
MY TREAT.
They're out for spring break.
HUH?
YOUR TREAT...? WHY?
THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO PAY FOR US BOTH, IS THERE?
THEN THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO PAY FOR ME IS THERE?
DO YOU EVEN REALIZE HOW WEIRD YOU'RE BEING?
GOD, IT'S LIKE YOU'RE ASKING A GIRL OUT OR SOMETHING.
EH...
BUT, I WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED GOING...
WELL, NO, OF COURSE NOT!
YOU ME IN TO TELL ME YOU ALWAYS PAY FOR PEOPLE WHEN YOU SUGGEST DOING SOMETHING?
HUH?
WHAT'S THIS...?

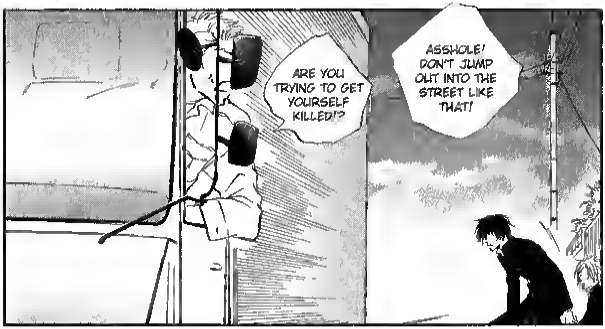
Now I've done it
!
beep
beep
beep
MINAGUCHI...
EH?
HOW MANY PICTURES OF ME HAVE YOU TAKEN ON THAT PHONE OF YOURS...?
flip
HOW MANY? I DON'T KNOW...

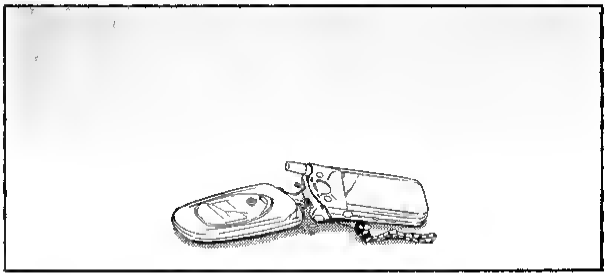
No, I haven't!
Absolutely not!
N...
THEN HOW COME YOU LATCHED STRAIGHT ONTO THE MEANING OF "THAT WAY"...?
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN USING THEM IN "THAT WAY," HAVE YOU?
I'm deleting all of my photos right now! Hand it over!!
You're the one who let me take them without complaining!
You think you can talk back when you've been getting off on photos of me!?
What are you calling collection, you idiot!
WAH!
No way!
Not my Andou collection!!

IT WAS LIKE AN UNSPOKEN UNDERSTANDING!
DON'T TELL ME YOU NEVER ONCE THOUGHT IT MIGHT TURN OUT LIKE THIS!?
I DID, BUT I KEPT QUIET ABOUT IT BECAUSE THERE WAS NEVER ANY POSITIVE PROOF!
JUST THE MERE THOUGHT OF ANOTHER GUY USING ME TO JERK OFF...
IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME SICK!!
AH...!
!!
!
bounce

WAIT A
BEEP!!
WATCH OUT
Andou!!

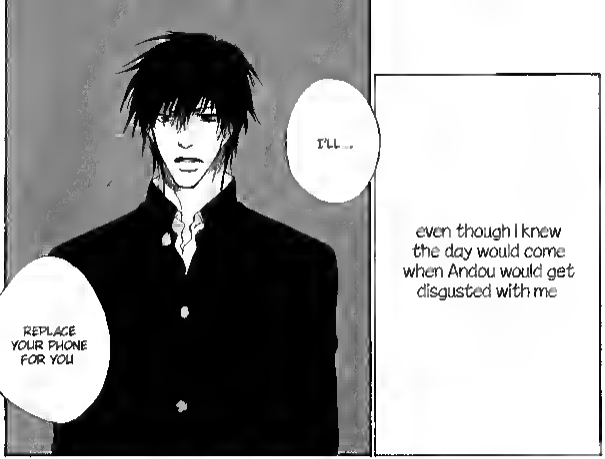
bang
CRACK


ARE YOU TRYING TO GET YOURSELF KILLED!?
ASSHOLE! DON'T JUMP OUT INTO THE STREET LIKE THAT!



"Don't get greedy..
Don't get greedy."

Even though I know there's no way I could ever stop these crazed fantasies from building up in my mind,



even though I knew the day would come when Andou would get disgusted with me

SERIOUSLY, DON'T SWEAT IT
BUT...
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, I REALLY AM TO BLAME FOR THIS...
LOOK I'M TELLING YOU IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT

the closer we got to one another,

the more obvious the difference in our feelings towards each other became

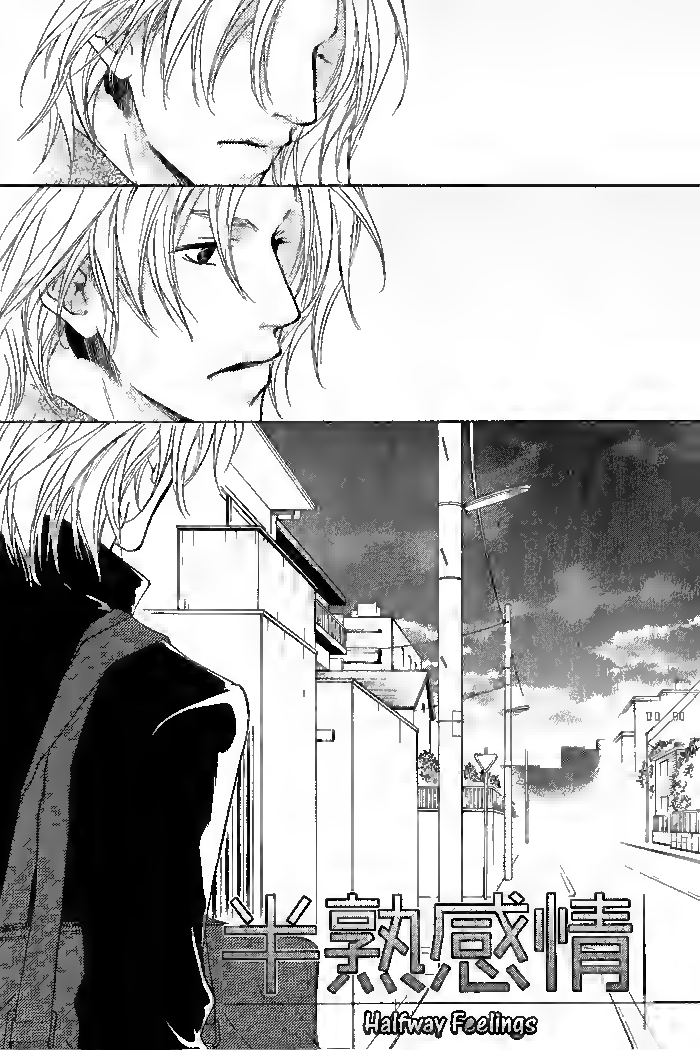
This is just too pathetic.

Even for me

If this is a love that can never be fulfilled,

then I'd prefer to be completely dumped sooner, rather than later.

I'M REALLY SORRY
I KNOW IT MUST MAKE YOU SICK, BUT...
I LOVE YOU
He was silent for a few moments after my confession.
I couldn't do anything but stand there with my gaze lowered...
Until his feet left my field of vision.


半熟感情
Halfway Feelings

STARTING TOMORROW, I'LL HAVE TO DO MY BEST NOT TO WONDER AROUND OUTSIDE ANDOU'S CLASSROOM.
...I BET HE WON'T COME NEAR MY CLASSROOM ANYMORE, EITHER...

Ah... I've been totally rejected...

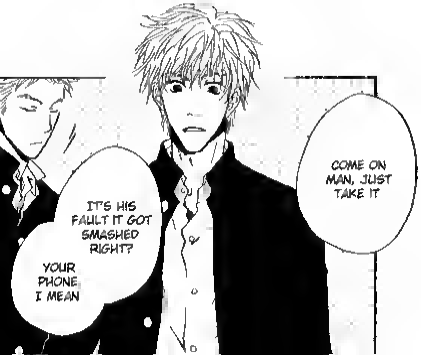
It hit me really hard.

And I realized that I must have loved him even more than I'd thought.

Uh

I know it's too late to be realizing this now. It's not like I can do anything about it...
Since Andou will probably never speak to me again...
At least, that's what I thought
MINAGUCHI,
ARE YOU FREE AFTER SCHOOL TODAY?
YOUR CELL...
HUH...
WHA...?
I SHOULD REALLY GET YOU A REPLACEMENT,
SO LET'S GO LOOK AT SOME ON THE WAY HOME

YEAH, BUT...
I REALLY DON'T WANT YOU TO DO THAT FOR ME...
.....
...I TOLD YOU, THERE'S NO NEED TO DO THAT.
BUT IF WE LEAVE IT LIKE THIS I'LL KEEP FEELING BAD ABOUT IT!



But Andou, who I'd expected to sever all contact with me...

Came again the next day, this time with an envelope full of money

I didn't want Andou to have some weird guilt complex over this. And I wanted his pity even less
LOOK, JUST TAKE THE MONEY I DON'T THINK HE'LL REST EASY TILL YOU DO
WHY ELSE WOULD HE KEEP COMING?
WELL HE OBVIOUSLY THINKS IT WAS
IT WASN'T REALLY ANDOU'S FAULT

I guess I was just being stubborn.

But then again, so was Andou

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I'LL REALLY SPEND THAT MONEY ON A NEW CELL OR NOT!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT
THIS IS MY APOLOGY TO YOU, SO STOP BEING DIFFICULT AND JUST TAKE IT.
THAT'S JUST IT! THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO NEED FOR YOU TO APOLOGIZE
IF I TAKE THAT MONEY OFF YOU, I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP AT NIGHT OUT OF GUILT!
I'M THE ONE WHO WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP AT NIGHT IF YOU DON'T TAKE IT!
Mina-sama,
We're going to change for PE.
After three days of this kind of to and fro...
Anyone would start getting pissed off
CAN'T YOU JUST PLEASE... BACK OFF.
It would be easier on me if my feelings for him changed like this...
I guess...

IF I USE THAT MONEY TO BUY A NEW CELL
THEN NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY TO FORGET YOU IT'LL JUST KEEP REMINDING ME.
DON'T YOU GET THAT BY TRYING TO BE NICE, YOU'RE JUST MAKING IT H. RDER FOR ME?
clack
I really wish he'd back off
I'VE GOT TO GO. I HAVE PE NEXT

After all, Im sure he wants to get this all behind him and forget about me, right?
AH...
I can't believe its been less than a year since we first started talking to each other up on that rooftop
AH CRAP I THINK I'M GONNA CRY
slump

Andou, who came once a week for an afternoon nap,
and me, who came only to talk to him.
Creak
I GUESS I'LL JUST SKIP THE NEXT CLASS AND STAY UP HERE A LITTLE LONGER...
The reason I bought that phone.
Was for the sole purpose of taking pictures of him.
WE WERE STILL IN OUR SUMMER UNIFORMS BACK THEN...
I SAW YOU GOING UP THE STAIRS, SO I HAD A FEELING...
WHAT WAS THE "I HAVE PE" ABOUT WHEN YOU'RE SITTING UP HERE?
GEH.
SO YOU REALLY ARE HERE.

sit
...I JUST WANTED TO CLEAR MY HEAD A LITTLE.
HM...
ding—
dong—
ding—
dong—
A, ANDOU-KUN—?
I COULD DO WITH CLEARING MY HEAD A LITTLE, TOO.

ding— dong—
ding— dong—
EH?
TELL ME... WHY ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH ME?
WHAT IS ANDOU THINKING...?
MINA-GUCHI!
I WON'T TRY FORCING MONEY ON YOU ANY MORE.
IN RETURN, CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

WHAT'S THE POINT IN ASKING ME THAT NOW?
COME ON...
YOU WEREN'T GAY TO BEGIN WITH, RIGHT?
...JUST WHAT IS IT ABOUT ME THAT YOU LIKE SO MUCH?
HUH!?
I DIDN'T REALIZE IT MYSELF AT FIRST, BUT
...
DID YOU FEEL THAT WAY SINCE THE DAY YOU FIRST CAME UP HERE TO TALK TO ME?
YOU WEREN'T AWARE OF IT AT ALL?
NOT REALLY - BUT THINKING BACK NOW,
I GUESS THINGS LIKE LONGING TO TALK TO YOU OR WANTING TO TAKE PICTURES OF YOU AREN'T EXACTLY NORMAL
PROBABLY

WELL, YOU DO HAVE SOME ODD HABITS.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
OH...
SO EVEN YOU THINK THEY AREN'T NORMAL?
BACK THEN
WHEN YOU KISSED ME,
I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR QUIRKS.
YOU MEAN YOU'VE PUT EVERYTHING I'VE DONE DOWN TO "QUIRKS"?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!

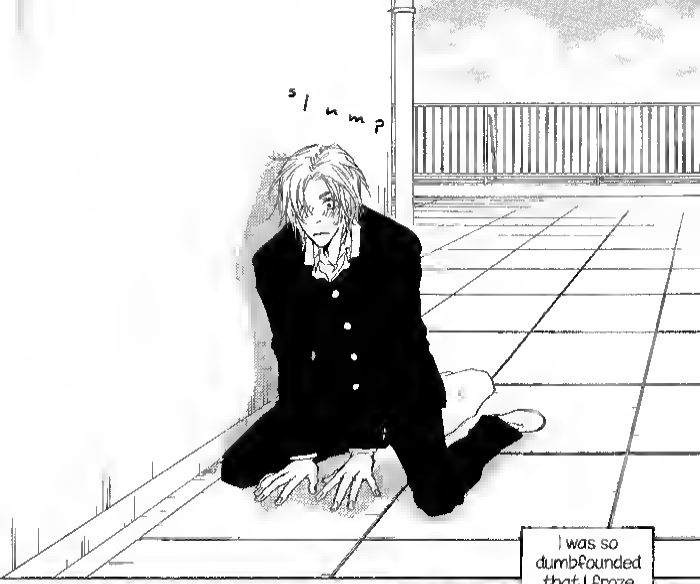
WASN'T IT STRANGE FOR US TO HANG OUT TOGETHER IN THE FIRST PLACE?
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ACCEPT MY FEELINGS FOR YOU,
THEN IT'D BE A LOT EASIER ON BOTH OF US IF YOU JUST KEPT YOUR DISTANCE.
THIS IS JUST PLAIN CRUELTY!
I GUESS
He's telling me he just pretended not to notice this whole time
I guess.
THAT'S HARSH

IF I'D REALLY HAD ENOUGH OF YOU,
I THINK
THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE GONE ANYWHERE NEAR YOU AGAIN, RIGHT?
I MIGHT ACTUALLY LIKE YOU, THOUGH
GIVE ME A BREAK
MY "LIKE" MAKES ME USE YOUR PICTURES IN A YOU-KNOW-WHAT-WAY, YOU KNOW?
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TOTALLY DIFFERENT SENTIMENTS HERE
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID THAT MAKES YOU SICK, ANDOU
BUT,
KEEP SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT, AND I'LL ATTACK YOU FOR REAL
I'M UP HERE BECAUSE I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.

EH—!?
WHAT YOU MEAN LIKE PUSH ME DOWN?

ANOU...
ちゅ
ちゅ
ちゅ

NN...
blush
SLAM
run
jerk



I was so dumbfounded that I froze on the spot After a whole lessons worth spent unmoving on that windy rooftop...

It's no surprise that I caught another cold.

WHAT... JUST HAPPENED?

I had to take two days off sick from school, leaving only a handful of days left before spring break.

But in those last few days, I never saw Andou at all...

Manjuku Kanjou / END

While I was stuck
in bed with a fever,
I dreamt about that
moment countless times.

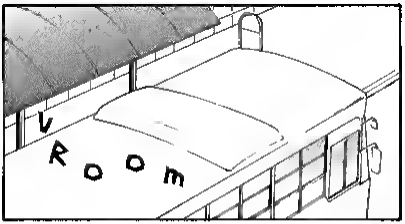
Some dreams had
endings so impossibly sweet
they took my breath away
Other ones ended so disastrously
that I cried in my sleep

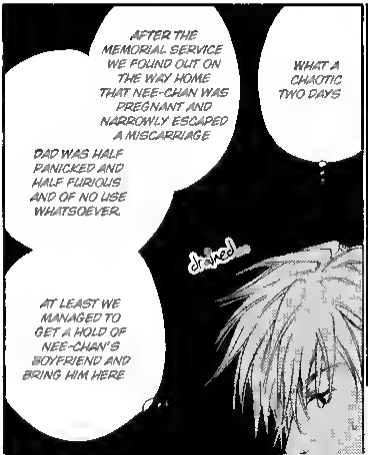
Either way, I
woke up completely
exhausted.

But as always,
nothing affects
me as much as
the real Andou.

共有引力
Shared Attraction
SO WHAT ABOUT CHIKA'S NEAR MISCARRIAGE...?
WELL, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYTHING TOO SERIOUS
BUT JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE, SHE'LL BE STAYING IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A WHILE
Spring break has already started.
EVEN IF I DID GET TO TALK TO HIM TODAY THERE'S NO GUARANTEE IT WOULD'VE GONE WELL.
BUT IF I'D KNOWN IT'D END UP LIKE THIS,
I WOULD'VE SUMMONED UP MY COURAGE AND GONE TO SEE HIM YESTERDAY...
As it is, the wish to see his face keeps lingering inside me, unabated.

YES OF COURSE. THANK YOU.
WELL THEN, I'D BETTER GET GOING
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MY SISTER


ROOM


AFTER THE MEMORIAL SERVICE WE FOUND OUT ON THE WAY HOME THAT NEE-CHAN WAS PREGNANT AND NARROWLY ESCAPED A MISCARRIAGE
WHAT A CHAOTIC TWO DAYS
DAD WAS HALF PANICKED AND HALF FURIOUS AND OF NO USE WHATSOEVER.
drained
AT LEAST WE MANAGED TO GET A HOLD OF NEE-CHAN'S BOYFRIEND AND BRING HIM HERE

SIGH

"ANDOU! YOU STILL ALIVE?"
AH
OH YEAH, I FORGOT TO ANSWER HIS TEXT
beep
beep
"YEAH I'M ALIVE HAD A BIT OF FAMILY TROUBLE, SO I COULDN'T COME TO SCHOOL."
bzz
GOD I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT'LL HAPPEN NOW
AND ALL ON THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF MOM'S DEATH NO LESS—
MESSAGE SENT
INBOX
3/XX ITOU
STILL ALIVE?
3/XX
3/XX ITOU
ABOUT TODAY
snap
3/XX
ITOU
ABOUT TODAY
WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU SICK? I NAGUCHI FROM CLASS 2 CAME TO SEE YOU ABOUT SOMETHING. THOUGHT I'D LET YOU KNOW

I SPOTTED MINAGUCHI THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO HIM SO I KEPT QUIET
AND NOW SPRING BREAK'S STARTED WITH EVERYTHING STILL HANGING IN THE BALANCE. THAT WAS REALLY LOW OF ME WASN'T IT?

THE NEXT STOP IS EAST BUILDING
IF I'D KNOWN IT'D BE LIKE THIS
I WOULD'VE TALKED TO HIM YESTERDAY WITHOUT HESITATING

HAH...
I THOUGHT I'D WATCH A MOVIE TO CHEER MYSELF UP
BUT NO ONE WANTS TO COME WITH ME
Sorry I'm late
I'm in the middle of a game. It really can't be helped
You always choose crazy movies anyway
I'LL GO LOOK UP THE SCREENING TIMES IN A MAGAZINE
COME TO THINK OF IT, ANDOU WASN'T TOO IMPRESSED WITH THAT MOVIE EITHER
You call that fun ?
I DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE GOING STRAIGHT HOME...
GUESS I'LL GO WATCH A MOVIE OR SOMETHING
step

THERE'S DELLINGER AND THAT WEIRD ONE MINAGUCHI WAS GOING ON ABOUT...
WHAT'S OUT RIGHT NOW ANYWAY?
flap

Wah Wah
Pfft
Heh.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, MINAGUCHI?
VIGI 6F
I THOUGHT I'D GO SEE A MOVIE SO I WAS LOOKING UP SHOW TIMES
I'VE ONLY SEEN THE TRAILER
YEAH, THAT'S THE ONE!
THAT WHACKO MOVIE YOU TOLD ME ABOUT BEFORE?
BY YOUR-SELF?
Haha
...OH.
WELL, I DID ASK SOME OF MY FRIENDS TO COME ALONG,
BUT THEY ALL SAID NO.
SO HE ASKED OTHER GUYS TO GO...

WHEN IS IT SHOWING?
UM...
THE NEXT ONE IS JUST AFTER TWO THIRTY.
THEN WE STILL HAVE SOME TIME HAVE YOU EATEN YET, MINAGUCHI?
HUH?
NOT YET.
OKAY, THEN I'LL GO WATCH THAT MOVIE WITH YOU
A-ANDO, YOU'LL GO WITH ME...?
WANT TO GRAB SOME LUNCH BEFORE IT STARTS?
WELL, I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT GOING TO SEE A MOVIE ANYWAY. IS THAT A PROBLEM?
Eh!?
NO — OF COURSE NOT
THEN LET'S GO
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO EAT? SOME FAMILY RESTAURANT?

Andou ?
SORRY FOR THE WAIT. PLEASE ENJOY
LOOKING AT THIS SITUATION...
HEY, DOESN'T THIS SEEM KINDA LIKE A DATE?
Haha. Just kidding...
munch
WELL, I GUESS SO...
...YOU'RE NOT DENYING IT...?
DO YOU WANT ME TO DENY IT?
EH?
I just wondered why...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE RIGHT. SO I AGREED THAT'S ALL

OH YEAH
HURRY UP AND FINISH YOUR MEAL ALREADY
IT'S NOT GETTING ANY WARMER
I'VE GOTTEN OVER MY FEVER ALREADY, RIGHT...?
OR IS THIS ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE WISHFUL DREAMS...?

This is definitely reality, but—
For some reason, it all feels so floaty.
WHOA— THERE'S HARDLY ANYONE HERE—
I've got a bad feeling about this movie...
SEPARATE BILLS PLEASE
—OKAY, NOW I KNOW IT'S REALITY
After doing that...

I'M GOING TO BUY DRINKS. YOU FIND A PLACE TO SIT
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?
EH
OH
I guess it's because of the way Andou's responding...
MINAGUCHI, WHERE DO YOU WANT TO SIT...
...
Isn't it weird for us to be sitting next to each other and watching a movie like this?
The truth is, I want to ask him about what happened between us that day
And I'm sure Andou's well aware of that
And yet, as he's sitting here next to me all the awkwardness seems to have vanished.

In any case
I'm just glad to see Andou laugh like this when he's with me...
THAT WAS GREAT!
SEE?
JUST LIKE I SAID, RIGHT?
BRAINLESS MOVIES LIKE THAT REALLY ARE THE BEST.
THEY HELP YOU FORGET ABOUT THE OTHER MESS IN YOUR LIFE.
thump
stretch
EH...?
Mess?
AH.
I DIDN'T MEAN YOU.

AH...
HUH?
THERE'S A BIT OF A FAMILY CRISIS GOING ON RIGHT NOW.
WELL. THERE WAS A BIG COMMOTION OVER MY SISTER'S PREGNANCY.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, SHE ALMOST HAD A MIS-CARRIAGE
WHAT!?
BUT DON'T WORRY. SHE'S FINE
AND SINCE WE DON'T HAVE A MOTHER ANYMORE...
Eh...!?
OH DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
SHE PASSED AWAY SEVEN YEARS AGO.
ANYWAY, YOU GET THE PICTURE
I GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE CONFUSION, AND ENDED UP ABSENT FROM SCHOOL
Instead I saw the maternity ward for the first time.
.....

MINAGUCHI, I HEARD YOU SHOWED UP AT MY CLASSROOM YESTERDAY.
A friend told me
THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH NEW INFORMATION FOR ME TO TAKE IN ALL AT ONCE
I'M SORRY I WASN'T THERE
NOT AT ALL. THERE WAS A GOOD REASON FOR IT...
WELL TO BE HONEST,
I SAW YOU THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY.
I THOUGHT I SHOULD GO TALK TO YOU,
BUT I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT TO SAY. SO
UM... SO
IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO ASK YOU NOW...
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY...?

IT'S JUST... I DON'T THINK I'D HAVE DONE SOMETHING LIKE THAT IF I HATED YOU.
I REALLY DON'T KNOW YET
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAME TO SEE YOU AFTER ALREADY DECIDING WHAT TO SAY.
I DON'T KNOW
ANDOU?
...BUT, "NOT HATING SOMEONE" DOESN'T EQUAL LIKING THEM, ANDOU.
THAT IF I DON'T PROFESS MY FEELINGS OF LOVE FOR YOU RIGHT HERE AND NOW, IT'S ALL OFF?
ARE YOU SAYING ...
AH...
I'M SORRY
EVEN IF NEITHER OF US KNOWS WHAT MIGHT CHANGE IN THE FUTURE?
Y'KNOW... WHY DO YOU NEED TO HAVE EVERYTHING DIVIDED INTO BLACK AND WHITE LIKE THAT...?
IT WAS THE SAME THE OTHER DAY, WHEN YOU...!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I...

I JUST DIDN'T WANT— US TO GO INTO SPRING BREAK WITHOUT HAVING TALKED TO EACH OTHER.
I REALLY— DON'T KNOW YET.
SO I WAS REALLY GLAD THAT I RAN INTO YOU TODAY
The whole time he spoke, Andou's head was lowered,
and his eyes squeezed shut
I GUESS I REALLY DO—
LIKE SPENDING TIME WITH YOU, MINAGUCHI
THAT'S WHY.
THAT'S— THE ONLY WAY I CAN PUT IT. REALLY—

Almost as if he were praying
PLEASE
GIVE ME SOME MORE TIME
I never thought I'd see him like that
because of me
ALL RIGHT

And then, when we were about halfway through spring break.

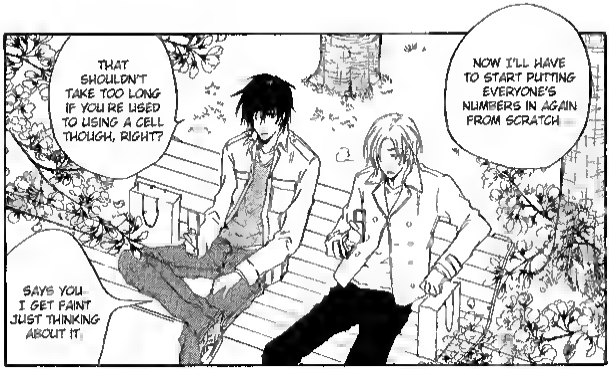
I decided to buy a new cell phone

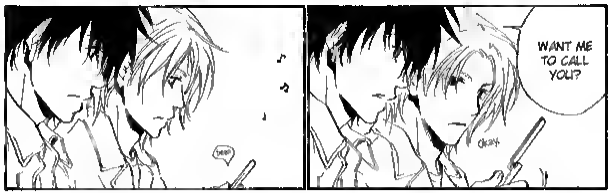
After that, we talked twice on the phone (I had to use my home phone)

The commotion surrounding his sister's pregnancy turned into talk of a wedding surprisingly quickly

Andou grumbled about it, but seemed secretly relieved at the turn of events.

PRETTY COOL...
WONDER IF I SHOULD GET A NEW MODEL, TOO...
New cell
Eh?
While I was trying to decide which one ta get,
Andou, who was only supposed to be tagging along...
DO YOU HAVE THIS COLOR IN STOCK?
THAT WAS QUICK! O.O"
...Changed models with lightning speed.
And so we both left with the same new cell phone in hand.
UGH...


THAT SHOULDN'T TAKE TOO LONG IF YOU'RE USED TO USING A CELL THOUGH, RIGHT?
NOW I'LL HAVE TO START PUTTING EVERYONE'S NUMBERS IN AGAIN FROM SCRATCH
SAYS YOU. I GET FAINT JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.


WANT ME TO CALL YOU?

ANDOU,
click
GIVE ME YOUR EMAIL TOO
LET'S SEE— ADD NUMBER TO ADDRESS BOOK

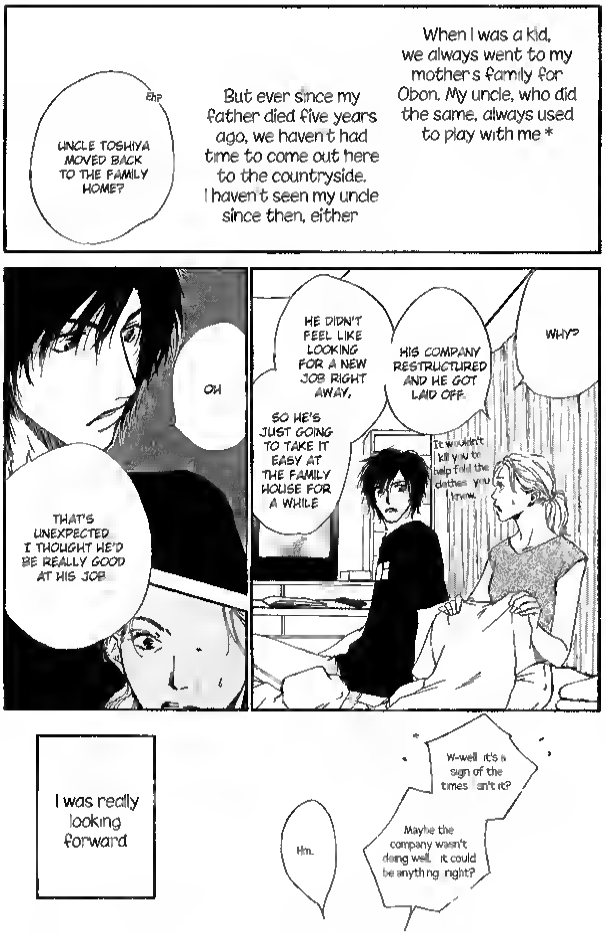
Oh
THAT CAME OUT PRETTY WELL
...ANDOU-KUN?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
I WAS JUST WONDERING...
HOW YOU MUST FEEL WHEN YOU'RE TAKING PICTURES OF ME.

It wasn't until some time later that I fully understood the meaning of Andou's words.
Save
I THINK I KINDA GET IT NOW
HEY...
ANDOU... DON'T GIVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
HUH...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT...?
OH, COME ON. YOU'VE TAKEN A HELL OF A LOT MORE OF ME, RIGHT?
BUT I LOST ALL OF THOSE!
SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST START TAKING NEW ONES?
EH?
Kyouyuu Inryoku / END

rooftop scenery

Chirp
Chirp
OH YUUSUKE-CHAN YOU FINALLY CAME!
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG DINNER WILL BE READY IN A MINUTE!
WE'VE GOT HOME-GROWN VEGETABLES AND
GRANNY
EH
MY UNCLE'S HOME, RIGHT?
UNCLE TOSHIYA, I MEAN
OH
YES. HE'S CLATTERING ABOUT SOMEWHERE ON THE PORCH
夏満天
The Vast Summer Sky

夏満天
The Summer Sky
I.. used to really love my uncle


When I was a kid, we always went to my mother's family for Obon. My uncle, who did the same, always used to play with me *
But ever since my father died five years ago, we haven't had time to come out here to the countryside. I haven't seen my uncle since then, either
EH?
UNCLE TOSHIYA MOVED BACK TO THE FAMILY HOME?
WHY?
HIS COMPANY RESTRUCTURED AND HE GOT LAID OFF.
HE DIDN'T FEEL LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB RIGHT AWAY,
SO HE'S JUST GOING TO TAKE IT EASY AT THE FAMILY HOUSE FOR A WHILE
It wouldn't kill you to help fold the clothes you threw.
OH
THAT'S UNEXPECTED. I THOUGHT HE'D BE REALLY GOOD AT HIS JOB...
I was really looking forward
W-well it's a sign of the times isn't it?
Maybe the company wasn't doing well. It could be anything, right?
Hm.

* Obon = a major holiday in Japan to honour deceased relatives and return to one's hometown in the summer with the rest of the extended family

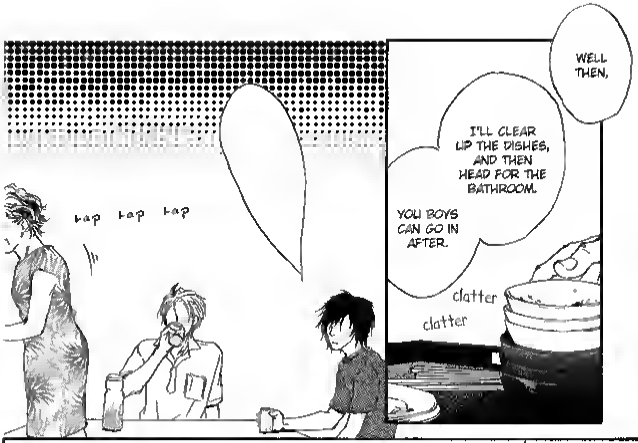
HE WANTS TO COME OVER BY HIMSELF DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS
HE HAS A TEMPORARY JOB TO COVER THE TRAVEL EXPENSES.
HONESTLY, EVER SINCE HE WAS LITTLE MY YUUSUKE'S BEEN SO ATTACHED TO YOU
to seeing him again after five years.
THAT'S RIGHT

OH, BEFORE I FORGET, TOSHIYA
HE MIGHT ASK YOU ABOUT WHY YOU GOT LAID OFF
IS SHE TALKING TO UNCLE TOSHIYA?

!!
SO PLEASE THINK OF SOMETHING TO SAY TO HIM.
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN REALLY TELL HIM
THAT YOU GOT FIRED BECAUSE THEY FOUND OUT YOU WERE GAY, RIGHT?
Haha...

I'd really been looking forward to it.

Yuusuke!?
When did you
Oh. Just now. Uh. Well. Um...
Just now
YOU'VE GOTTEN SO BIG, YUUSUKE-CHAN
TO THINK THAT YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE BY YOURSELF!
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I LAST SAW YOU? FIVE YEARS?
THAT'S TRUE
WELL I AM IN MY SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL ALREADY, YOU KNOW
Hehe
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO END UP TALLER THAN I AM!
IT'S HIS GROWTH SPURT, YOU KNOW BEFORE HE ONLY CAME UP TO HIS GRANNY'S SHOULDER!
Or does this conversation seem really fake somehow?
I mean, I obviously won't break that subject in front of my gran, but still...
Is it just me...


WELL THEN,
I'LL CLEAR UP THE DISHES, AND THEN HEAD FOR THE BATHROOM.
YOU BOYS CAN GO IN AFTER.
clatter
clatter
tap tap tap

DAMN, I DIDN'T REALLY WANT HER TO SUDDENLY LEAVE US HERE ALONE TOGETHER, EITHER
twitch
YUUISUKE

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SO DO YOU WANT TO HEAD OUT AFTER YOUR GRAN GOES TO SLEEP?
TO OUR SECRET BASE, I MEAN

SECRET BASE?
Shiiin Shiiin Shiiin
YUP.
IT'S THIS REALLY NICE PLACE I FOUND.
IT OVERLOOKS THE VILLAGE BELOW, AND AT NIGHT YOU CAN SEE THE STARS TWINKLING IN THE SKY.
IF YOU'RE SURE YOU CAN KEEP IT A SECRET,
I'LL TAKE YOU UP TO SEE IT.
I CAN DO IT! I CAN KEEP IT A SECRET!!
YOU PROMISE?
YEAH!
Shiiin Shiiin
chirp
I DON'T SEE TOSHIYA-KUN ANYWHERE. HAS HE GONE OUT?
I GUESS HE MUST HAVE LEFT BEFORE US.

I
I bet he's there.
at the secret base!

UM... YEAH.
WHO'S THIS? YOU KNOW THIS KID?
THAT'S RIGHT YOUR FAMILY WAS COMING TODAY
DID YOU JUST GET HERE?
OH? HELLO YUUSUKE.
YEAH, HE'S MY NEPHEW
haha
OH, SO YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO BE AN UNCLE ALREADY HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT, I'M AN OLD MAN.
Chirp~
Chirp~
Chirp~

WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT THE SECRET BASE DIDN'T JUST BELONG TO ME AND UNCLE TOSHIYA,
I WAS REALLY HURT...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, HE MUST'VE BEEN SEEING THAT GUY AT THE TIME...
These rocks are pretty loose, Yuusuke. Be be careful.
Okay.
WELL...
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE PROOF... IT'S PRETTY LOW OF ME TO JUST ASSUME...
We should've taken another flashlight with us.
Nah, it's fine.
SCRAPE
OH, LOOK
IT'S THAT BAMBOO MAT THAT WE PINCHED FROM THE PORCH BACK HOME. DO YOU REMEMBER?
HAHA, I'M NOT SURPRISED IT'S ALL RAGGEDY NOW, AFTER BEING LEFT OUT HERE FOR FIVE YEARS

COMPARED
THE VIEW HERE...
HASN'T CHANGED A BIT ALL THIS TIME.
UNCLE TOSHIYA—
HM?

ARE YOU REALLY GAY?
HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN?
Pfft
!?
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT!?
OH, IT'S JUST... I THOUGHT YOU'D ASK ME SOONER OR LATER, BUT...
YOU REALLY DON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH DO YOU?
?? You got a problem with that?
YOU MAY HAVE GOTTEN PRETTY BIG,
BUT YOU HAVEN'T REALLY CHANGED AT ALL, YUUSUKE

...YOU SURE LIKE ASKING ME TOUGH QUESTIONS.
I DO?
I'M NOT REALLY SURE "WHY," EITHER.
SO
WHY MEN...?
"WHY" ARE THE ONES I FALL FOR ALWAYS MEN?
"WHY" DO I NEVER SEEM TO BE PHYSICALLY ATTRACTED TO WOMEN?
...BUT YOU ARE TO GUYS?
YEAH.

IT'S LIKE, WHEN YOU MASTURBATE
YOU DO IT BY THINKING ABOUT A GIRL YOU LIKE.
WITH ME, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A GUY.
...DID YOU REALLY HAVE TO PUT THAT IMAGE IN MY HEAD...?
Argh! You did that—?
WELL, THAT'S THE TRUTH OF IT.
THAT'S WHAT YOU CAME HERE—
TO FIND OUT, RIGHT?
TO BE HONEST,
I WANTED TO KEEP IT A SECRET FROM YOU.
...WHY?

WELL,
IT'D BE A TOUGH BLOW IF THE NEPHEW THAT'S BEEN SO ATTACHED TO ME ALL THIS TIME
WALKED AWAY FROM ME IN DISGUST OVER THIS
BUT—
I'M NOT—
This is the first time
I've ever seen him look like that

I never thought someone like him could have an expression like that...
Jerk
I, ER...
AH...
Someone other than me...
Probably many others...

YUUSUKE...?
AH...
WHAT ARE YOU...
WHY DID YOU HIDE IT?
DON'T HIDE ANYTHING FROM ME ANYMORE!
I HATE BEING THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOU, UNCLE TOSHIYA...
I used to love this person.
Already know this side of him.

MM
NN
NH
HEY
I BET
YOU'RE USED TO GOING ALL THE WAY, RIGHT ?
What shocked me the most
CAN I DO IT NOW—?

Wasn't the fact that my uncle was gay
NN...
KEEP GOING WITH YOUR FINGERS
THAT'S IT
MM
It was the fact
that I knew even less about him than I'd thought
MM...
YOU CAN PUT ONE MORE IN
YOU SURE...?
YEAH...
HE'S REALLY EROTIC...

AH
UN.
HAH
HAH
AH
NH
*Subtitles originally blank
I know it's impossible for me to find out absolutely everything there is to know about my uncle.
After all he's been living in this world for eleven years longer than I have.
AH
But I just..
AH
AH

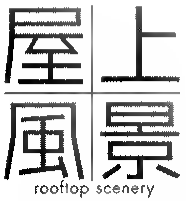
Really

really loved him

I DON'T WANT TO GET SERIOUS WITH YOU
I DON'T WANT HER TO KILL ME
MY SISTER'S THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS ME. I DON'T WANT TO BETRAY HER.
I ALREADY HAVE A BOYFRIEND
WHY...?
BECAUSE YOU SUCKED!
...!!
I'LL GIVE YOU AS MANY REASONS AS IT TAKES TO CONVINCE YOU.
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU HAVE YOUR WAY AGAIN
NOT EVEN IF YOU TRY IT BY FORCE

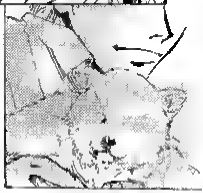
I haven't seen my uncle since that summer.
According to my mother,
he left the family house again to start working at an office his friend had set up.
IN THAT CASE,
ALL THE MORE...
NOT EVEN...
IF I SAID I WAS IN LOVE WITH YOU...?

She also said...
that he wouldn't go back there anymore in the summer
WOW...
ARE THE STARS THERE REALLY THAT PRETTY? SOUNDS GREAT...
I'VE NEVER BEEN SOMEWHERE LIKE THAT. I'M SO ENVIOUS!
HEY, TAKE ME ALONG NEXT TIME!
A sky full of stars...
NO WAY IT'S THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. AND IT'S FULL OF BUGS
THERE'S NOTHING TO DO THERE, EITHER.
WHAT? BUT YOU'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT IT THIS WHOLE TIME!
WELL, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT MY CHILDHOOD...
THERE'S REALLY NOTHING THERE...
NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF STARS...
NOT ANYMORE...
Natsu Manten / END


屋上
風景
rooftop scenery

rooftop scenery

恋は
夢でも
花でもなく
Love is Neither Dream nor Flower



I have no idea... what that must feel like

.....
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE PHOTO OF MY FIRST LOVE HERE, YOU KNOW?
I'LL NEVER GET TIRED OF IT.
YOU'RE LOOKING AT THAT AGAIN? DON'T YOU EVER GET TIRED OF IT?
WELL AREN'T YOU PURE-HEARTED
beom beom ding ding ding

GAME OVER
Hey
HIROCHIKA
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME WE DO IT?
FINE BY ME WANT TO MOVE THIS TO THE BED?
I GUESS THE FLOOR MIGHT BE A BIT UNCOMFORTABLE...
AS LONG AS YOU'RE FINE WITH IT, TSUKAMOTO-SAN, I DON'T MIND WHERE WE DO IT.
I'm always at Tsukamoto-san's place on the weekends.
AH, HANG ON, I'LL JUST TURN THE GAME OFF...
It's already been close to three months since we started meeting up at the convenience store every Saturday evening.
(Theme Song)
NH...
Tsukamoto-san's a man, and so am I.
I was just another ordinary high schooler... until the day Tsukamoto-san came on to me.

STARE

YOU JUST SEEM SO INTENT ON READING THIS
WHAT MAGAZINE IS IT?
WHAT?

WELL...
Yeah.
YOU WERE STANDING HERE READING LAST WEEK TOO, WEREN'T YOU?
GOT FREE TIME ON YOUR HANDS?
Normally, he'd be the kind of person I'd just ignore, but...
HM...

SO YOUR PARENTS OWN THAT BAR?
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED ABOUT THAT PLACE, SINCE IT'S RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
YOU CAN COME, BUT YOU WON'T FIND ME THERE. MY PARENTS RUN THE PLACE
OH REALLY?
I'LL COME TAKE A LOOK NEXT TIME. YOU'LL HAVE TO SERVE ME ONE ON THE HOUSE!
I SEE
SO THAT'S WHY YOU BUY PRE-PREPARED MEALS FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE?
HOW SAD
OH?
I DON'T CARE
I'M USED TO IT

There was something about his movements, his air, that made him different from anyone else I'd ever known.

He made me promise to meet him at the convenience store again the following week.

And the week after that, he pounced me (I was the one on top, though...)

WA
GO AHEAD
LIN
IT'S BETTER IF YOU COME ONCE BEFOREHAND
AH
NH
Still,
Just because we're doing it doesn't mean we're "lovers" or anything.
AH
TSUKI-MOTO-SAN... I CAN'T TAKE ANYMORE...
IT MUST BE NICE TO BE SO YOUNG!
STILL READY AND RARING TO GO, I SEE
THERE YOU GO
I'M GONNA COME...

WHAT?
YOU SMELL OF ME SO NO THANKS..
Is it that bad..?
Don't wanna kiss
It's always like this between us, even when we're in the middle of doing it.
ARGH!!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I CAN'T STAND LITTLE BRATS LIKE YOU!!
YEAH WELL SORRY BUT JUST THE THOUGHT OF THAT IS NASTY!
HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF INDULGING SOMEONE!?
yank
yank
yank
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO ACCEPT THOSE KINDS OF GESTURES WITHOUT COMMENT! IT'S FRIGGING COURTESY!
Indulging..?
SORRY
kiss
kiss
THAT'S JUST HOW US LITTLE BRATS ARE, SO LET IT GO

Namely,
I still don't know...
AH...
Of course, there's that real age difference between us, too.
But there's another reason Tsukamoto-san keeps treating me like a kid.
I'LL ONLY LET IT GO IF YOU SATISFY ME COMPLETELY
25 and 17
NN...
AH!
AH...
HAH...
What it feels like to be in love with someone.
YEAH I GET THAT A LOT
I WAS SURE YOU WERE AT LEAST 20
I figured as much.
SEVENTEEN?
NO WAY YOU'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL!?
After the first time they had sex ..

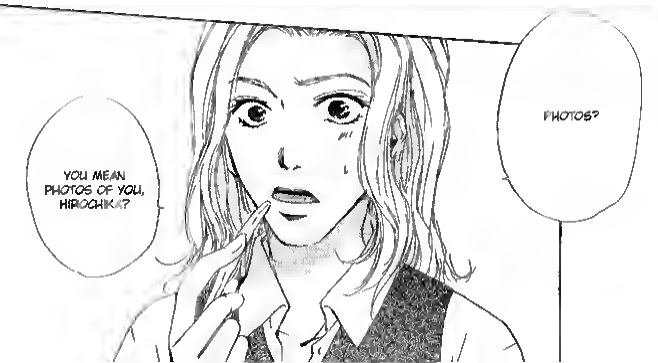
It's fine as long as there aren't any STDs involved
WHY? EITHER WAY, IT'S STILL JUST SEX.
SHOULDN'T YOU BE THE ONE WORRYING A BIT MORE HERE? YOU JUST SLEPT WITH A GUY FOR THE FIRST TIME!
NOT THAT IT MATTERS MUCH TO ME BUT...
DAMN... WHAT DID I DO TO THIS YOUNG BOY'S PROMISING FUTURE...
IT OBVIOUSLY DOES.
Jolt
ENOUGH ALREADY I GET THE PICTURE
I WON'T WASTE MY BREATH TRYING TO EXPLAIN MY SENSE OF MORALS TO SOMEONE AS INDIFFERENT AS YOU
?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BUTTER-FLIES IN YOUR STOMACH WHEN YOU'RE AROUND A GIRL YOU LIKE OR THE NERVOUS EXCITEMENT OF A FIRST EXPERIENCE?
ARE ALL HIGH SCHOOLERS LIKE THIS NOWADAYS?
WHAT,
HUH...? NEVER REALLY HAPPENED TO ME...
WELL...
I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING, THOUGH.
...
WHEN I WAS 14, WITH ONE OF MY SISTER'S FRIENDS.
WHEN WAS YOUR FIRST TIME THEN?

SO QUIT TALKING LIKE YOU'VE SEEN IT ALL
...WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
BETWEEN SAYING "IT'S JUST SEX" WHEN YOU'VE KNOWN LOVE, AND WHEN YOU HAVEN'T
THERE'S A VAST DIFFERENCE
I'M SAYING THAT YOU'RE JUST A KID THINKING WITH NOTHING BUT HIS BODY.
Despite his words,
this relationship of ours is still continuing which makes me wonder where these great morals of his really lie
But there's one other thing I have trouble understanding.
A portrait of love. ♥
WHAT'S THAT?
LAUGH, DAMNIT!
That was supposed to be a joke.
...Then what about that magazine?
...I like you shouldn't worry about that. It's my treat.
Can we eat out? I don't have much money on me, though.
We can't meet up in a shop and leave without buying anything, right?
Payday, today.
Right...

Oh, so sorry.
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND HIROCHIKA.
WELL, I GUESS IT'S WHAT YOU'D CALL A MAN'S PURITY OF HEART.
PICTURES OF YOUR FIRST LOVE...?
YOU'VE KEPT THEM AROUND ALL THIS TIME?
HEHE GREAT ISN'T IT?

I don't have a clue as to what you mean by these "pure feelings" of yours.

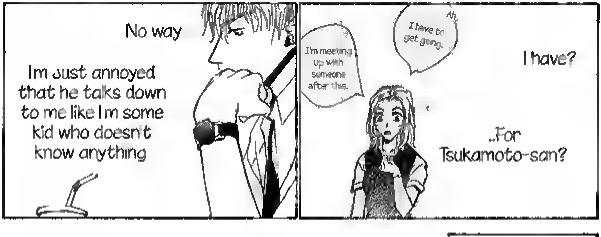
I'm just a kid who thinks with nothing but his body, so what would I know?



I WAS JUST WONDERING IF PEOPLE USUALLY KEEP PICTURES LIKE THAT AND TREAT THEM LIKE TREASURED POSSESSIONS OR SOMETHING...
HM...
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF CHEATING ON MY BOYFRIEND.
WRONG, SILLY!
IF THIS IS A ROUNDABOUT WAY OF ASKING ME TO GET BACK TOGETHER WITH YOU, IT WON'T WORK.
WELL, I DON'T THINK I THREW THEM AWAY. BUT WHY DO YOU ASK?
pfft
WELL, WHAT IF IT'S OF THEIR FIRST LOVE?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
I GUESS IT DEPENDS ON THE PERSON AND WHO'S IN THE PHOTO.
SO? IS YOUR GIRL-FRIEND THE KIND OF PERSON WHO KEEPS PHOTOS LIKE THAT?
MORE LIKE THE TYPE WHO KEEPS A WHOLE ALBUM FILLED WITH SINGLE PICTURES OF THEIR FIRST LOVE, OR ONES OF THEM TOGETHER
Not a girlfriend but...
CAN'T HELP MYSELF... I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR YOU TALK LIKE THAT...
he he he
SORRY...
YUKA...

HAVE YOU TWO DONE IT YET?
YEAH
Eh!?
DON'T TELL ME SHE LOOKS AT THOSE PICTURES IN FRONT OF YOU?
WHOA, THAT'S DEEP
Eh...
WELL, YEAH...
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT THIS IS REALLY ABOUT. YOU'RE STARTING TO FALL FOR HER, RIGHT!?
...YEAH, BUT,
HIROCHIKA, I'VE GOT TO SAY....
LISTEN!
IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS MY GIRLFRIEND OR ANYTHING...
THIS SOUNDS BAD. SHE'S TOTALLY NOT SERIOUS ABOUT YOU!
HASN'T GOTTEN OVER THAT FIRST LOVE OF HERS, RIGHT? I MEAN, SHE EVEN LOOKS AT PICTURES OF HIM IN FRONT OF YOU!
BUT THAT GIRL...
YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY REALLY INTO HER, OR YOU WOULDN'T BE SITTING HERE TELLING ME ALL THIS

LOOK, I TOLD YOU IT REALLY ISN'T LIKE THAT...
OH, SURE
IF YOU SAY SO, I'LL PLAY ALONG
Fallen for him?
You really haven't changed in that sense have you?
I feel like an idiot for answering you so seriously
I SHOULD KNOW IT WAS THE SAME FOR ME WHEN I WAS WITH YOU.
IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT HER, I'D LOVE TO CHEER YOU ON. BUT...
I'M AFRAID THAT THE MORE YOU FALL FOR HER, THE MORE PAINFUL IT'LL BE FOR YOU.


No way
Im just annoyed that he talks down to me like Im some kid who doesn't know anything
I'm meeting up with someone after this.
Ah, I have to get going.
I have?
..For Tsukamoto-san?

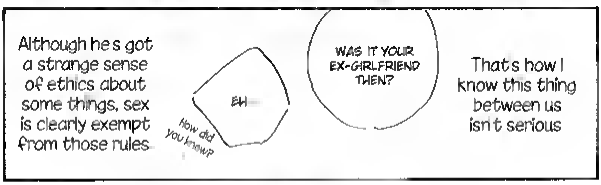
what kinds of feelings cause him to treasure an old photo album like that

It made me want to know

And..

HIROCHIKA?
You wouldn't understand Hirochika.
What he's thinking about
When he gazes at those pictures with that look in his eyes
That's all it is.
HUH...?
I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU
DO YOU ALWAYS EAT OUT LIKE THIS, EVEN ON WEEKDAYS?
WELL, THAT'S TRUE.
NO, TODAY WAS JUST
ANYWAY, YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, TSUKAMOTO-SAN!

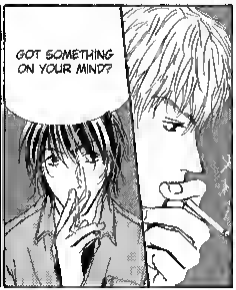
He's naturally talkative, and is good at getting what he wants
A GIRL HUH?
DID YOU GET DUMPED?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
Geez, you sound like an old man.
OH? IS THERE SOMEONE WITH YOU?
YEAH. WELL, THERE WAS, BUT SHE LEFT ALREADY.
HM...?


Although he's got a strange sense of ethics about some things, sex is clearly exempt from those rules
EH
How did you know?
WAS IT YOUR EX-GIRLFRIEND THEN?
That's how I know this thing between us isn't serious

There's a vast difference
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW MANY YEARS I'M AHEAD OF YOU?
OH COME ON, OF COURSE I CAN TELL!

between saying "it's just sex" when you've known love and when you haven't
You're just a kid thinking with nothing but his body.
WELL, IN THIS CASE, IT WAS JUST SIMPLE DEDUCTION.
OH, COME ON! I FEEL LIKE SMOKING ONE RIGHT NOW!
...JUST ONE THEN, OKAY?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE STILL IN YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM, STUPID.
LET ME HAVE ONE, TOO.
FUU...
I CAN'T IMAGINE GOING WITHOUT A CIGARETTE AFTER DINNER!
The restaurant was non-smoking

choke
cough
cough
cough
I WAS THINKING ABOUT LOVE


GOT SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?

NO I MEAN
THINGS LIKE THE PHOTO ALBUM AND STUFF, I DON'T REALLY GET ANY OF IT

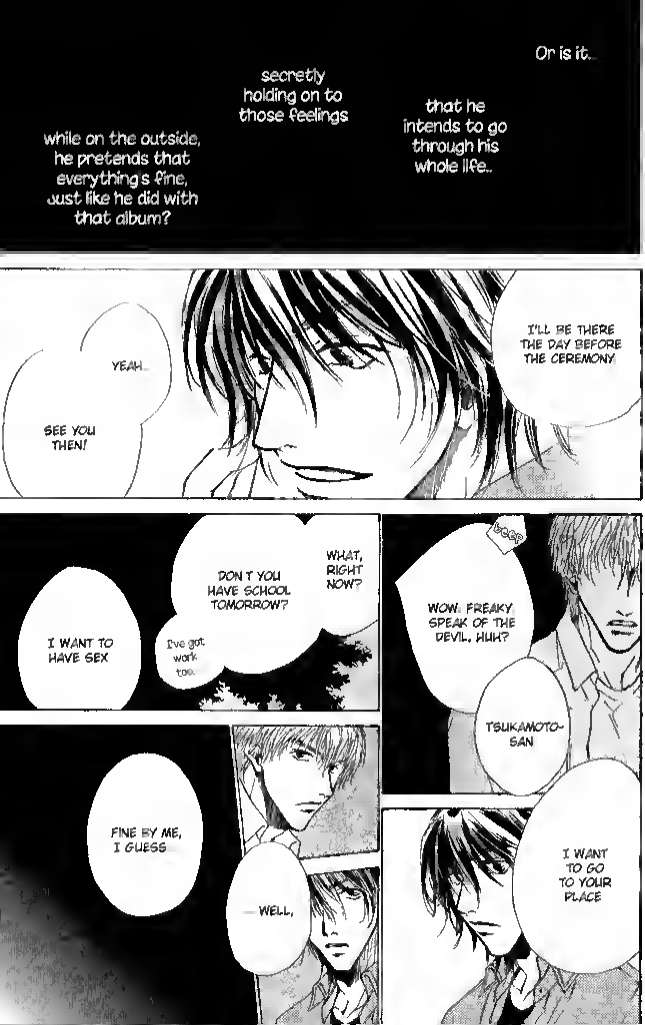
HA
cough
I'M TALKING ABOUT YOU!!
WHERE THE HELL DID THAT COME FROM..?

I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? ABOUT A MAN'S PURITY OF HEART.
BUT, WHAT DOES THAT
YOU KNOW.
I NEVER REALLY FELL IN LOVE WITH A GIRL. BUT,
WHEN I MET ONE THAT WAS MY TYPE, I'D ASK HER OUT, AND WE'D GO ON DATES... THAT KIND OF THING.
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I NEVER ONCE DOUBTED THAT I WAS STRAIGHT.
BUT...
I WAS WRONG.
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED
THAT I LIKE MEN
WHEN I WAS IN MY SECOND YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL, THE GUY I WAS ALWAYS WITH INTRODUCED ME TO HIS NEW GIRLFRIEND. YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT A SHOCK THAT WAS TO ME.

I COULDN'T TELL MY PARENTS EITHER. I WAS SO TORN UP ABOUT IT
AND WHEN I REALIZED THAT I GET WAY MORE TURNED ON STARING AT GUYS' ASSES THAN GIRLS',
THAT WAS ANOTHER HUGE SHOCK
IT'S KIND OF IRONIC,
THAT THE ONE WHO SAVED ME FROM THAT HELL WAS THE VERY SAME GUY—
—DID YOU CONFESS TO HIM?

I DID
I TOLD HIM, "HEY, I THINK I'M GAY"
NO— I MEAN, DID YOU TELL HIM ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS...?
ring
I DI
OH,
SORRY— HANG ON A SEC
HELLO?
He didn't
Tsukamoto-san never told that guy...
HAHA...
WOW, WHAT AMAZING TIMING...
Eh...?

Is that the guy from the photo album...?
OH, IT'S NOTHING. JUST TALKING TO MYSELF. WHAT'S UP?
OF COURSE I'LL COME. I TOLD YOU I WOULD!
WHAT. ARE YOU ALREADY GETTING NERVOUS, MR. BRIDEGROOM?
HM? YEAH
IT'S FINE. I'VE ALREADY TAKEN THE DAY OFF FROM WORK
HOW'S ATSUKO-SAN?
HAHA, SHE IS? THAT'S GREAT
SHE'S SUCH A SLENDER LITTLE THING, SO I WAS STARTING TO WORRY THAT SHE MIGHT FAINT BEFORE THE CEREMONY EVEN STARTS!
Why?
How can he talk like nothing's wrong!?
What happened to that look on his face from just a minute ago?
YEAH
He loves him.
He's never been able to get over him.
Isn't that why he's always looking at those old photos?
MAKE SURE YOU GIVE HER MY LOVE
YEAH


Or is it...
that he intends to go through his whole life...
secretly holding on to those feelings
while on the outside, he pretends that everything's fine, just like he did with that album?
I'LL BE THERE THE DAY BEFORE THE CEREMONY
YEAH...
SEE YOU THEN!
WHAT, RIGHT NOW?
DON'T YOU HAVE SCHOOL TOMORROW?
I WANT TO HAVE SEX
I've got work too.
BOOP
WOW. FREAKY. SPEAK OF THE DEVIL, HUH?
TSUKAMOTO-SAN
I WANT TO GO TO YOUR PLACE
FINE BY ME, I GUESS
WELL,

OPEN
FOR NOW,
LET ME TAKE A SHOWER
close
I'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND ALL DAY DOING PHOTOGRAPHY SO I REALLY STINK OF SWEAT.
Tsudamoto-san's the assistant of a commercial photographer.
HEY!
WAI...
HIRO...!
HEY
DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I JUST SAID?

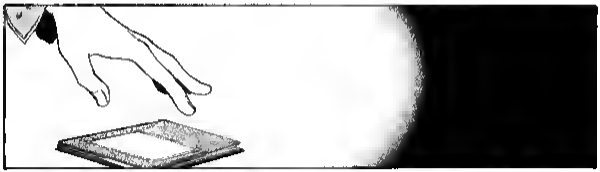
DAMN...
OW!
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING ALL WORKED UP FOR, IDIOT?
AT LEAST LET ME TAKE OFF MY SHOES FIRST!
WHY ARE YOU SO CALM ABOUT IT...?
EH?
THE PHONE CALL
IT WAS FROM THE GUY IN THE PHOTO ALBUM, WASN'T IT?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
HOW CAN YOU JOKE AND LAUGH WITH HIM LIKE IT'S NOTHING ONE MINUTE... AND THEN SLEEP WITH ANOTHER MAN THE NEXT, TSUKAMOTO-SAN?
WHAT ARE THESE "PURE FEELINGS" THAT YOU KEEP GOING ON ABOUT?

HIROCHIKA!
OR IS IT
HUH?
MOANING IN PLEASURE WHEN YOU DO IT WITH ANOTHER GUY, EVEN THOUGH YOUR HEART BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE.
THAT WHEN YOU LOOK AT THOSE PHOTOS, YOU FANTASIZE
ABOUT FUCKING HIM, LIKE YOU NEVER COULD IN REAL LIFE?
HEY!
sfx: SIGH

I DON'T KNOW BUT
WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE IS WRONG!
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT WOULD A KID WHO'S NEVER BEEN IN LOVE KNOW ABOUT IT?
QUIT SCREWING AROUND
DON'T YOU FUCKING TELL ME WHAT'S RIGHT AND WRONG, YOU CHEEKY BRAT!
IT'S WRONG! YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE!!
SO WHAT IF I AM!?
EVERY-THING!!
ARE YOU REALLY PLANNING TO LIVE YOUR WHOLE LIFE GIVING YOUR HEART TO NO ONE BUT HIM!?
WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT THAT!?

AH...
...HEY, HIRO-CHIKA...?
Why am I crying?
Why can't I stop those tears from falling?
AH...
HAH...
Why?
SFX BANG

I don't know what to do anymore.
MMPH
in my entire life.
I've never cried over anyone... or felt so pathetic before.
NN
NN
NGH
AH...
UH
U
S



SUCH AN IDIOT....

I could probably have seen him if I'd gone to his house but I couldn't quite gather enough courage after what had happened.

So I ate by myself at home again, just like I'd done before I first met him

set

That weekend

Tsukamoto-san didn't come to our usual meeting place at the convenience store

WELCOME TO THE STORE!

No thanks.

I'm free but don't wanna.

Hirochika, if you're free today do you want to...

As I ate my solitary dinner I couldn't help remembering Yuka's words "the deeper you fall for someone, the more painful it gets"

slide

ring

ring

AH, HIROCHIKA?

HELLO?

IT'S TSUKAMOTO

WHERE ARE YOU NOW? STILL AT SCHOOL?
EH...
YEAH...
ARE YOU DONE WITH CLASS?
SORRY...BUT COULD YOU COME TO THE STATION? I HAVE A LOT OF THINGS TO CARRY
CAN YOU COME RIGHT AWAY?
—SURE.
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU AT THE TICKET GATES THEN
beep
HEY, HIROCHIKA!
OVER HERE!

WHAT THE HELL!?
I HAD BOTH HANDS FULL, SO I COULDN'T GET PAST THE TICKET GATES
HERE. I NEED YOU TO TAKE THESE
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST CALL ONE OF THE STATION ATTENDANTS?
YEAH. I GUESS I COULD'VE DONE THAT

OH, WELL
YOU'RE HERE NOW, SO JUST TAKE THIS
WHAT ARE THESE? SOUVENIRS?
THEY'RE LEFTOVERS
FROM MY BROTHER'S WEDDING PARTY

COME ON, LET'S GO
HUH...?

You see... I was getting so desperate that I told him I was gay, with the intention of confessing my feelings to him right then and there.

But he listened seriously to everything I told him. He was so earnest about it that I just couldn't bring myself to tell him that he was the one I was in love with.

After that, he even helped me come out to our parents.

I was so frustrated - both with myself, who couldn't say it, and with my brother, who didn't notice my feelings.

My head was just in such a mess. It even came to a point where I thought about killing my brother and then myself.

But a part of me knew that I could never actually do such a thing.

It's true that I saw my brother as an object of sexual desire, but...
He was also an important part of my family. In the end, I knew that could never be changed.
IF I COULD'VE JUST TOLD HIM I LOVED HIM, THIS NEVER WOULD HAVE GOTTEN DRAGGED OUT SO LONG.
...THE TRUTH IS, I DID FANTASIZE ABOUT TAKING HIM, JUST LIKE YOU SAID.
WHEN I WAS DOING IT WITH OTHER GUYS, ALL I'D HAVE TO DO WAS IMAGINE IT WAS WITH MY BROTHER, AND I'D GET SO MUCH MORE TURNED ON.
I DID THAT A LOT WHEN I WAS WITH GUYS WHO RESEMBLED HIM.
EVEN I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT WAS PRETTY HORRIBLE OF ME.

WELL,
THANKS TO YOU OPENING MY EYES HIROCHIKA,
I FEEL LIKE I MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET OVER HIM A LITTLE
SO...
STOP MAKING THAT FACE
SORRY.
HM?
I'M SORRY I HIT YOU
I'M SORRY I SAID SUCH CRUEL THINGS TO YOU
I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT ANYMORE
It was all true, anyway

I
LOVE YOU
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, TSUKAMOTO-SAN
IDIOT
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING YOURSELF INTO? FALLING FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME
I CAN'T HELP IT
I CAN'T HELP WHO I FALL IN LOVE WITH
YOU SHOULD KNOW BEST
THAT YOU CAN'T FIGHT YOUR FEELINGS TOWARD THE ONE YOU LOVE
YEAH
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT THERE
In the end,
Welcome to the store!

We continued meeting up at the convenience store every weekend, just like before
Come to think of it, you never make anything do you, Tsuka mito-san?
Can't you cook?
The way we interact hasn't changed, and he still calls me a kid.
Of course I can. I just don't!
Why not?
Y'know... I'd really like to eat something of the "home cooked" variety.
I'm tired of pre-prepared meals.
Geh
...but I want to eat something you made.
I get too tired to bother with cooking.
People who work have it tough, you know.
But, these days,
HEY. WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT ALBUM OF YOURS?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU'D GOTTEN OVER HIM!!
IT'S RIGHT HERE!
HEY, DON'T TAKE TEN YEARS WORTH OF FEELINGS SO LIGHTLY! I'M THE DEDICATED TYPE
GEEZ YOU'RE ANNOYING...
IS THAT REALLY SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF!?
JUST SHUT UP AND LOOK AT THE LAST PAGE

?
COME ON, JUST LOOK!
I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?
I'VE GOTTEN OVER HIM A LITTLE
From time to time he shows me his cute side
And when he does, I think about how I'm always on the verge of saying something like, "I didn't waste my love on you at all, did I?"
...Just "a little"?
ONLY JUST "a little"?
Hmm?
If you don't quit nagging, I'll change my mind about having that spare key made for you tomorrow!
Eh!?
Koi wa Yume demo Hana demo naku
/ END

手に取って下さり、ありがとうございます！
二見さんとは初めてのコミックスになります。

■屋上風景シリーズ
ずいぶん、携帯電話物語…。えと今回のケータイがカメラつきになった頃に描いた続みヨリが少女まりました。（当時のケータイは必ずキーホルダーと同じ物様とそ）結果こういう形となりましたが続きを描くことになるとは思えませんでした。何年たっても…。
ちなみに目的は、もっと違った方向に進む方がいいんじゃないか…と模索しつつも、なんかこういう色、ぽさとは違う違いほうとしたら、私服は友達かが、不好きなのって…いいのでしょうか？読む側としては納得いかない、でしょうかって、この先行かはるだろけど、それはご想像にお任せすることで。

（↑当時、友人に「ふざけんな」と起こられました。）

二人の関係は私、ホントに屋上が好きなんですよね。どうでもいい。（ハイ、すいません。）

周囲は、幸×智 支持が多いです。

■夏満天

他社さんで描かせて頂いた読みきり。その時の本の特集テーマは「熱男愛（あつだんあい）」でした。（考えた人、ガッツあったな。）とにかく、フェロモン系やセレブ（ブルジョワ）な男になかなか描けない反動がします。こういう熱い男的なお話もまた描いてみたいです。

■恋は夢でも花でもなく

タイトルが浮かばずムリヤリ（Live）つけたものでした。お色んな意味が若いなぁと（青春）。原病を見返すの辛行でしたが、すがたこんなとちょこっと手直しを入れています。作中のメインではなかったですが兄弟ネタわりと好きです。雑食。

雑誌時担当S様、コミク収時担当O様、手伝ってくれたアシさん友人の皆もありがとうです！読んだ人にも楽しんで頂けていたら嬉しいです。

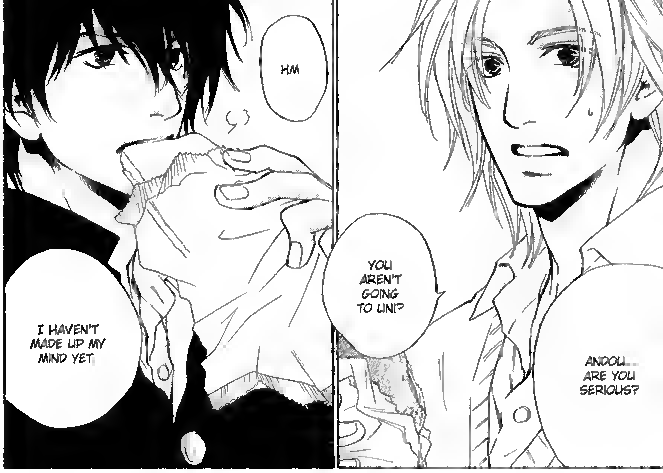
2007年7月　富士山ひなた

←つぎと描き下ろし——。

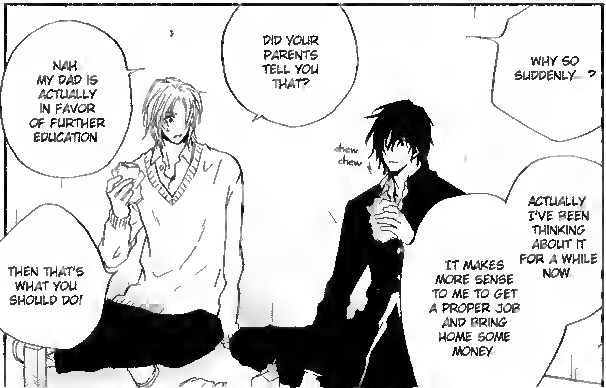
The sakura season came to an end, and we went up a year in school.

We're still in separate classes, but the time we spend together

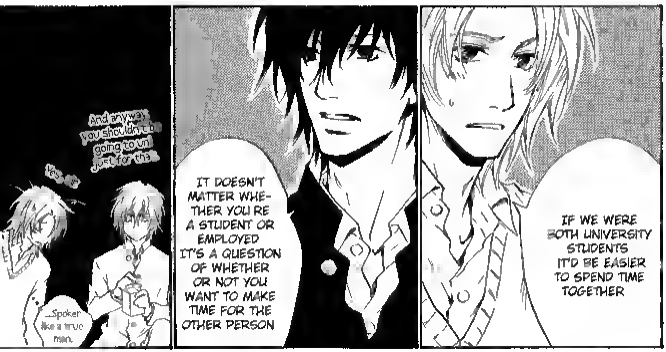
has definitely increased.



Depending on the time of year we do talk about these kinds of things, but...


NAH, MY DAD IS ACTUALLY IN FAVOR OF FURTHER EDUCATION
DID YOUR PARENTS TELL YOU THAT?
chew chew
WHY SO SUDDENLY...?
ACTUALLY I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE NOW
IT MAKES MORE SENSE TO ME TO GET A PROPER JOB AND BRING HOME SOME MONEY
THEN THAT'S WHAT YOU SHOULD DO!

YOU SHOULD TOTALLY GO TO UNI!
WE COULD GO TO THE SAME ONE IT'D BE FUN!
I THOUGHT YOUR FIRST CHOICE UNIVERSITY WAS DIFFERENT FROM MINE, ANYWAY
WELL YEAH BUT...


IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU'RE A STUDENT OR EMPLOYED IT'S A QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT YOU WANT TO MAKE TIME FOR THE OTHER PERSON
IF WE WERE BOTH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IT'D BE EASIER TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER
And anyway, you should've gone to uni just for this.
Yes sir
...Spoken like a true man.

In the end,
it's always like
this between us

dejected

However,

I bet he's angry with me...
gloom

HE LOOKS LIKE A KICKED PUPPY.
HEY,

THUMP
ARE YOU WORRIED OR SOMETHING?
THAT I WON'T MAKE TIME TO SEE YOU?
BUT THE SAME GOES FOR YOU, DOESN'T IT?
YOU MIGHT GET BORED OF THIS AND STOP SEEING ME...
NEVER!
THAT'S NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN!!
dead serious

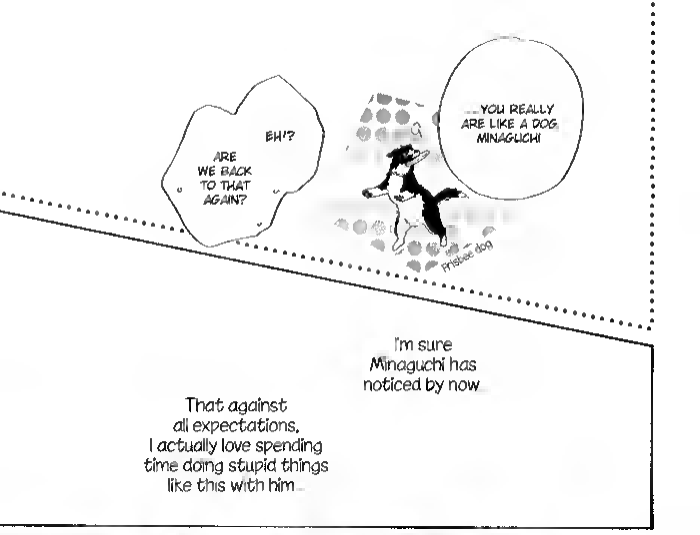
MINAGUCHI, YOU'RE LIKE...
he he
SUCH A CUTE GUY
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE THE CUTE ONE AROUND!!

WHAT... I JUST MEANT YOU'RE LIKE AN OVERGROWN PUPPY THAT'S ALL...
ANYWAY, WHAT PART OF ME COULD YOU POSSIBLY CONSIDER CUTE?
smack
EVERYTHING
...!
OW!

IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE SPOUTING RUBBISH AGAIN...
drift
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO HIT ME THAT HARD...
HEY... THAT REALLY HURT...
So mean.
GEEZ, WHAT THE HELL...
AH
HEY...
THEY'RE BLOWING AWAY!
AH NOT THE CONVENIENCE SHOP BAG TOO !
ACK...
WAIT...
WHOA!

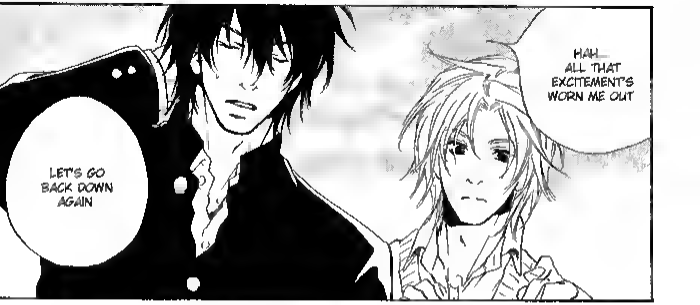
clap
step
step
step
step

Final Score
Andou: 3 wrappers
Minaguchi: 3 wrappers
+ convenience
shop bag
...new—



I'm sure Minaguchi has noticed by now

That against all expectations, I actually love spending time doing stupid things like this with him



that I'm just as worried as he is about what will happen to our precious time together once we graduate.

and that the time we spend together now has increased

because I wanted it to

EH
TO WHAT YOU TOLD ME DURING SPRING BREAK!
IT'S MY ANSWER
DON'T GIVE ME "HUH?"!
HUH?
turn
YOUR ANSWER...?
EH?
stalk stalk
WAIT...!
WA...

DID YOU...
DID YOU JUST SAY THAT YOU LIKE ME...!?
ANDOU!
YOU MEAN... YOU LIKE ME IN THAT WAY?
...YEAH
...THAT'S RIGHT...
キムチ kimchi spicy korean side dish
HEY! HOW CAN YOU JUST TOTALLY DESTROY THE MOOD BY SAYING THAT!?
AH...
THEN...
THEN, IF I WANT TO KISS YOU...
FINE BY ME BUT YOU JUST ATE CURRY BREAD... FILLED WITH PORK KIMCHI, NO LESS "

OKAY MINAGUCHI, TAKE A DEEP BREATH THEN
HUH?
GO ON, BREATHE IN
BREATHE OUT
BREATHE IN... OKAY. NOW HOLD IT AND CLOSE YOUR EYES
inhale~
exhale~
inhale~
KISS

HEY... WAS THAT IT!?
THAT'S IT FOR NOW.
...COME ON, THE BELL'S RINGING.
ding-dong-
Not just being happy that someone has feelings for you,
Eh...
ding dong -
but being happy to make time for each other..

Isn't that what
having mutual
feelings is all about?

Andou Kairo / END

◆初出一覧◆

屋上風景（シャレード2003年11月号）
枠外空間（シャレード2004年5月号）
告白媒体（シャレード2004年9月号）
半熟感情（シャレード2005年9月号）
共有引力（シャレード2006年5月号）
夏満天（GUST mania vol 13　2002年／桜桃書房）
恋は夢でも花でもなく（シャレード2000年9月号）
安藤回路（描き下ろし）

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屋上風景

rooftop scenery

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元クラスメイトの安藤が気になる皆口は、昼休みを彼と屋上で過ごすようになる。自分をノーマルだと思っていた皆口だが、普段無愛想な安藤が見せる無防備な笑顔に変化を自覚。口では文句を言いつつも、携帯電話で写真を撮らせてくれる安藤に淡い期待を抱くようになるが、写真よりも生身の安藤に触れたい欲が出てきてしまい――。表題作シリーズに加え、叔父への切ない恋を描く「夏満天」、年の差カップルの「恋は夢でも花でもなく」ほか描き下ろしも収録。
友情と恋情のはざまで揺れる高校生のファースト・ラブ♥

CHARADE COMICS